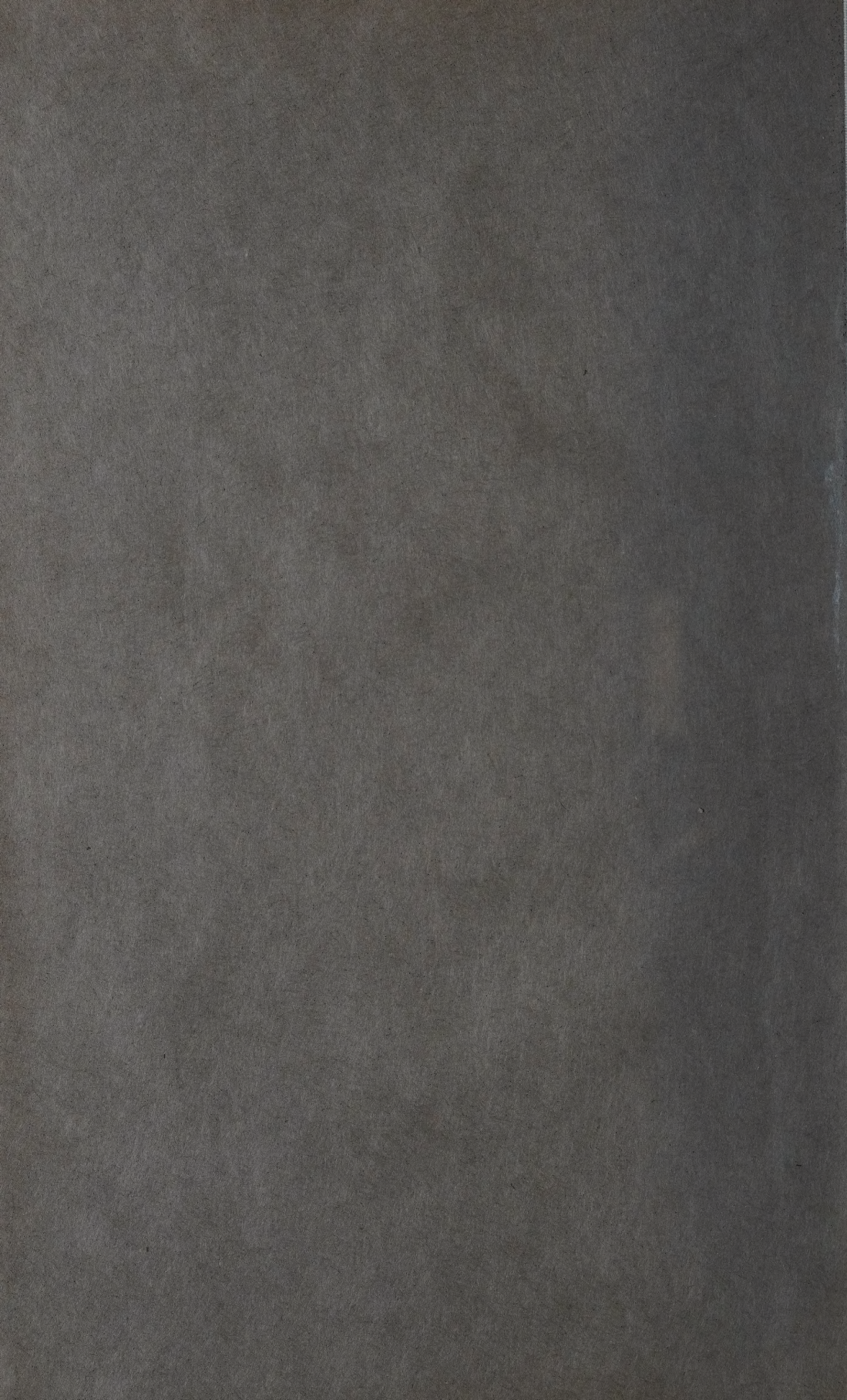


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GIBBONS STAMP WEEKLY

A POPULAR WEEKLY STAMP JOURNAL

FOR THE GENERAL COLLECTOR, AND MORE ESPECIALLY FOR
BEGINNERS AND YOUNG COLLECTORS

EDITED BY
EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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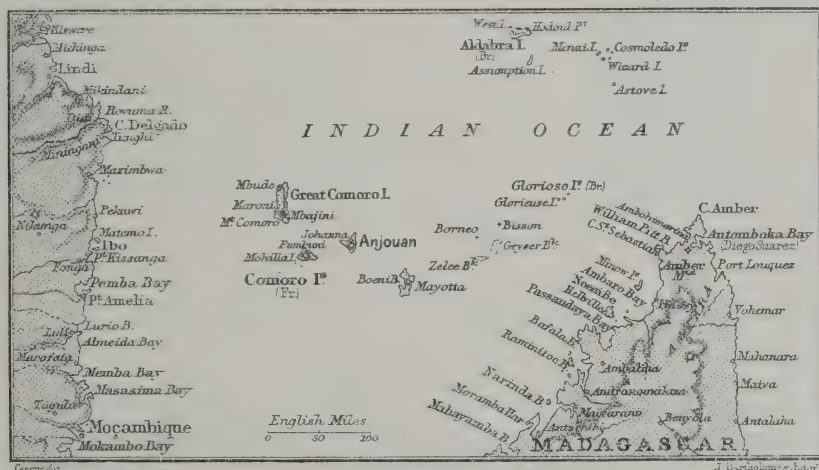
1 JULY, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Anjouan



ANJOUAN, sometimes called Johanna, is one of the Comoro Isles, a group belonging to France in the Mozambique Channel between Madagascar and the mainland of Africa. Anjouan is the second in size of the group, and has a population of 12,000. A British Consul is resident on the island, and it is also marked as a British coaling station. It passed into the possession of the French in 1886. The population is partly Arab and partly Malagasy.

The islands are of volcanic origin, very fertile and mountainous.

Our Gibbons dignifies it as the Sultanate of Anjouan, taking its cue from the legend on the tablet of the stamps. With the personality of the Sultan I regret to confess that I have not yet scraped an acquaintance.

Its Philatelic History

The philatelic history of the so-called Sultanate of Anjouan is brief, so brief that one is impelled to wish that the philatelic history of all the French colonies could be writ in as few lines.

It entered the ranks of stamp-issuing

countries in the year 1892, and from that time to this has remained content with one series, supplemented by a change of colours in four of the values in 1900.

May its future philatelic growth be as wisely restricted. Then shall it escape the anathemas reserved for other variety-loving colonies of La Belle France.

1892. The design is what is known as the tablet type, *i.e.* a general design engraved for the use of all the colonies, with a tablet in blank to be filled in as required with the name of the colony. This separate printing of the name was done in various colours, in red on the 1 c., 5 c., 15 c., 25 c., 50 c. (brown on azure), 75 c., and 1 franc, and in blue on the 2 c., 4 c., 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c., and 50 c., carmine on rose.

With the exception of the 15 c. all the stamps of the first series were printed on coloured or toned papers. The 15 c., blue, was printed on paper of a quadrillé pattern.



(To be continued.)

Perf.

Unusd.
s. d.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 c., black on azure paper . . . | 0 | 1 |
| 2 c., brown on buff paper . . . | 0 | 1 |
| 4 c., purple-brown on grey paper . . . | 0 | 1 |
| 5 c., green on pale green paper . . . | 0 | 1 |
| 10 c., black on lilac paper . . . | 0 | 2 |
| 15 c., blue on quadrillé paper . . . | 0 | 3 |
| 20 c., red on green paper . . . | 0 | 4 |
| 25 c., black on rose paper . . . | 0 | 4 |
| 30 c., cinnamon on drab paper . . . | 0 | 5 |
| 40 c., red on yellow paper . . . | 0 | 6 |
| 50 c., carmine on rose paper . . . | 0 | 8 |
| 75 c., brown on orange paper . . . | 1 | 0 |
| 1 fr., olive-green on toned paper . . . | 1 | 3 |

1900. In this year the 10 c., 15 c., 25 c., and 50 c. were changed in colour for all the colonies provided with the tablet type of stamps, but the design remained as before. The 10 c. was changed from black on lilac paper to rose-red, the 15 c. from blue to grey, the 20 c. from red on green paper to blue, and the 50 c. from carmine on rose paper to brown on azure paper.

*Same type and perf.
Colours changed.*

Unusd.
s. d.

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 10 c., rose-red . . . | 0 | 2 |
| 15 c., grey . . . | 0 | 3 |
| 25 c., blue . . . | 0 | 4 |
| 50 c., brown on azure paper . . . | 0 | 8 |

Note.—The prices quoted are taken from the forthcoming edition of Gibbons Catalogue, Part II., for 1905.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4,700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this Edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1,000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last Edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from vol. i. p. 377.)

Stamps without a Name (continued)

POSTAGE stamps were first introduced into Spain in the year 1850. Isabella II. was Queen. In the ten years which followed, no less than six issues appeared, in all of which the central design was the head of Isabella II. One reason of these many issues in so short a period of time was because of the many forgeries made to defraud the Post Office. Forgeries for the purpose of deceiving collectors are also common. The beginner must therefore be on his guard lest tempting offers on the part of some ignorant or unscrupulous person lead to the inclusion of a number of useless counterfeits of these early issues in his album. Close comparison with a genuine stamp will in many cases detect the forgery. If such comparison is impossible, then I can only suggest that "the suspect" be sent up to some well-known firm for examination. If the stamp be a valuable one, the cost of authenticating it is small compared with the loss and disappointment incurred should it turn out to be a clever imitation of the real article. One illustration of each of the 1850, 1851, 1852, 1860 issues will be sufficient to identify them. An example of the 1855 issue has already been given on page 265 of vol. i. of this journal.

SPAIN.



1850.



1851.



1852.



1860-1.

The first issue of Norwegian stamps appeared in 1855, when Oscar I. was King of Sweden and Norway. The design consists of a lion rampant holding an axe, on a shield with vertical lines denoting a red ground (gules). This shield is surmounted by a crown and enclosed within a circle, above which is FRIMÆRKE ("Free Stamp"), and below appears the value 4 SKILLING. A skilling was equivalent to about one half-penny in English money. In 1877 the currency was changed to that of Sweden, and krona and öre became the coins of Norway. 100 öre = 1 króna = 1s. 1½d. in our money.

NORWAY.



1855.

Switzerland was made up of twenty-five independent states united in a perpetual league. It became a federal state in 1848. The first issue of stamps common to the whole Confederation was made in 1850. Previous to this date, the cantons of Zurich and Geneva and the town of Basle had issues of stamps for local or cantonal purposes. Until 1850, most of the cantons had different currencies. In Zurich a florin was made up of 60 kreuzer or rappen. In Basle, the franc, equivalent to about 1½ French francs, was divided into 100 rappen. In Geneva the French currency was in vogue, and a franc was divided into 100 centimes.

In 1845 a stamp was issued for use in the town of Basle. The central design consisted of a pigeon carrying a letter embossed in white on a carmine shield. Below the shield was inscribed STADT-POST-BASEL. The Arms of Basle, a crozier, appear above the pigeon.

BASLE.



1845.

Prior to the year 1849, Geneva had three issues of stamps for use in the canton. These had the Arms of Geneva for the central design, and "Poste de Genève" figured in the upper part above the shield. In 1849 Geneva applied to the Federal Council for permission to issue local stamps. This permission was granted on condition that the central design should consist of the Federal Arms of Switzerland. This design accordingly appeared on the issue of 1849. A cross in white on a red ground is enclosed in the ring of a post-horn. POSTE LOCALE is inscribed on a tablet at the top and the value appears below the post-horn.

In the year following, the shape of the stamp was changed from a transverse oblong to an upright rectangle. The post-horn gave place to a shield surrounded by ornamental tracery. Illustrations of these rare issues of Geneva are given below.

GENEVA.



1849.



1850.

The application of Zurich to the Federal Council for permission to issue stamps for local purposes was granted under the same conditions as was the case of Geneva. The new stamp appeared in 1850. The illustration will easily enable the beginner to distinguish between the 1849 issue of Geneva above described and this issue of Zurich.

ZURICH.



1850.

Postage stamps were first issued in Turkey in the year 1863, during the reign of the Sultan Abdul Aziz. Up to the year 1876 the numerals of value appeared only in Turkish characters. The currency is in piastres and paras. One piastre = 40 paras = 2½ d.

The central design of the issue of 1863 was the upturned crescent, above which was the signature of the Sultan. Under the crescent was the Turkish numeral of value, inscribed in a disc and surrounded by Arabesque ornaments. The hatchet-shaped figure within the disc in the illustration is the Turkish numeral 2.

A new series appeared in 1865. A star appeared above the crescent, and the whole was enclosed in an upright oval edged with pearls. The Turkish numerals of value appear in the four corners. An overprint in black was added in Turkish.

TURKEY.



1863.



1865.

In 1892 a most elaborate issue appeared. The central design consisted of the Arms of Turkey with the badges of all the orders suspended from them, and with the signature of the reigning Sultan in the centre.

An issue for internal postage only appeared in 1901. The Sultan's signature again forms the central design. The crescent and star with a galaxy of Arabesque work complete the design.

TURKEY.



1892.



1901.

(To be continued.)

BY-PATHS OF PHILATELY

PICTURE STAMPS AND METHODS OF ARRANGEMENT

By H. R. OLDFIELD

I ALMOST wonder whether one ought to introduce so frivolous a subject for consideration as Picture Stamps, more particularly when we remember that most of them belong to a class which has been received by philatelists with ridicule, annoyance, and, finally, indignation, and that many of them have been described as speculative and unnecessary.

It is, however, a curious fact, well worthy of consideration by the thoughtful, that in all ages many things which have been the subject of contumely and ridicule for one generation have, in the next, been objects of admiration and eagerly sought for.

The 1s., Newfoundland, and the 1d., Sydney View, unused, would not now be worth their £20 to £50 apiece if collectors in 1860 or 1850 had realised the possibilities that the future held in store for these stamps and for many others of those and of the succeeding years.

The despised stamps of our days are not *less* likely to be the rarities of a future generation than the colonial issues which for some years past have been hoarded by so-called collectors in panes and sheets. There is one curious fact which I would commend to the consideration of these speculators, namely, that it is seldom indeed the first purchaser makes the profit. Not many of the original holders of the rarities issued from 1840 to 1865 received the increased value which prevailed in the nineties and subsequently, and not many of the original purchasers in our days of the stamps which will become the rarities of the future are likely to reap the full benefit of their purchases.

It would be well for us to get rid of a certain amount of cant which exists in Philately, and look at things in their true perspective.

Speculative Issues

After all, we philatelists are a comparatively insignificant portion of the community, and we are hardly in a position

to dictate to Governments what stamps they shall or shall not issue. If we come to the conclusion that they or some individual officials have fallen so low as to try to make a few pounds out of collectors by the issue of speculative or unnecessary stamps, the remedy lies in our own hands; we need not buy or collect them. It is naturally annoying to find that the status of a country of whose stamps we have perhaps been making a specialised and unlimited collection has been seriously affected, and their value depreciated by reason of copious speculative and unnecessary issues; but the evil works its own remedy, for gradually collectors begin to avoid that country, and the revenue suffers for the *temporary* increment by reason of a serious and *long-continued* diminution in the sale of stamps for other than purely postal purposes.

Picture Stamps

A consideration of these matters led me to the conclusion that it was worth my while to look at Picture Stamps upon their merits apart from any prejudice created by the circumstances of their issue.

In a somewhat tentative way I began to collect, or rather to accumulate these stamps, and at a very early stage I was somewhat impressed by the fact that the general public and the half-indifferent collector displayed an interest, and even enthusiasm, in a Picture Stamp collection which was hidden, or non-existent, so far as an ordinary general or specialised collection was concerned.

Gradually a fresh avenue of interest seemed to open up, affording occupation and amusement for the present and possibilities for the future, a veritable picture gallery to be obtained at a minimum of expense, the classification and arrangement of which would give pleasurable occupation for many an idle hour, while the result would interest not only the owner, but those who saw it, and the ultimate value was not likely to be less

than that of a collection formed upon the orthodox lines.

Ploughing a Lonely Furrow

The general collector, beginning to long for completeness, while at the same moment he realises its impossibility, is looking around for some means of attaining his desire. Somewhat disenchanted with his own collection because of the vacant spaces, he is proposing to limit himself to some few countries selected according to the fancy of the moment, or to some group of states geographically or historically connected with each other. In a short time he happens to see some specialised collection of one of his countries, and is appalled at the expense involved in ploughing down that long and lonely furrow.

Such a one, even though his means be more limited than his desires, I would invite to wander along this by-path. I think he will have plenty of company, but the later comers will not find it quite so easy to obtain all that is necessary for completeness as those who are early in the field.

Only a By-path

Of course, it is only a by-path and cannot be mistaken for the high road, but, taken as an adjunct to a country collection, it has its merits; it will probably become popular, and be a source not only of pleasure, but of ultimate profit.

One of the earliest difficulties is that of definition, and the next is that of selection. In each case the collector must decide for himself, and settle where to draw the line. Some will take a stricter view than others, but this will not lead to confusion. It will only mean the addition of a class or classes to those which may be held properly to come within the definition agreed upon.

There is, however, one principle which is an essential element in a Picture Stamp collection. It is that the *design* or *picture*

is the chief characteristic, and not the *value* or monetary denomination which the stamp bears upon its surface.

Variations in the frame or the colour are matters for individual taste, but as regards the picture, if it is the same in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. as in the 10s. value, either should answer the purpose for which it is required in the collection.

Classification of Picture Stamps

The stamps which undoubtedly come within the definition of pictures may be divided into six classes:—

1. Pictures of scenery and of country life.
2. Pictures illustrative of historical events.
3. Pictures of public buildings and monuments.
4. Pictures of town life.
5. „ of animals.
6. „ of things.

With regard to the following, some collectors will consider that they come within the definition, while others will reject them:—

7. Allegorical and fancy figures.
8. Arms.
9. Maps.

There is still a further class, but most people will consider it hardly comes within the definition of a Picture Stamp, and that is:—

10. Portraits, which may be subdivided as follows:—
 - (a) Rulers: Hereditary.
Elected.
 - (b) Explorers.
 - (c) Generally.

There are many subdivisions, the development of which may interest or amuse, among which may be noted religious emblems on stamps.

(To be continued.)

A SPLENDID START. THE FINEST PACKET.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Brazil

Dom Pedro II., Emperor of Brazil, only son of Dom Pedro I., was born 2nd December, 1825. He ascended the throne upon the abdication of his father, 7th April, 1831, under the guardianship of the celebrated José Bonifácio de Andrada e Silva. His aptitude for business and his popularity were, however, so great that he was declared of age by the Chambers 23rd July, 1840. The chief measures of his reign were directed with much success to the increase of the commercial and agricultural prosperity of Brazil, and to the extinction of slavery throughout the empire. The war with Rosas, the Dictator of Buenos Ayres, in 1851-2, and that which broke out with Paraguay at the close of 1864, in which Brazil was allied with Uruguay and Argentine, still further extended the influence of the empire, the Emperor himself leading the army against the forces of Lopez. During his reign railways were built, telegraph and cable communications extended, and free education made universal throughout the empire.

The portrait of Dom Pedro II. is the only one that appears on the stamps of Brazil.

Bulgaria

During the reign of Prince Alexander, *i.e.* from the first issue, in 1879, and after the accession of Prince Ferdinand till 1902, the Arms of the country, a lion rampant, dominated the design of all the stamps issued, but in 1902 a full series of twelve values appeared with the portrait of Prince Ferdinand.

Ferdinand, Prince of Bulgaria, was born in Vienna in 1861, and is the present reigning Prince. He is the youngest son of Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg, and is related to the royal houses of France through his mother the Princess Clementina, who was a daughter of Louis Philippe.



Prince Ferdinand.

Prince Alexander was deposed in 1886, and in the following year the Bulgarian Parliament offered the vacant throne to Prince Ferdinand. The great Powers, especially Russia, opposed his election, but the Prince defied the Powers, accepted the crown, and on August 14th, 1887, formally took the oath in the old capital of Tirnova, but it was not till 1896 that his sovereignty was formally recognised by his suzerain the Sultan of Turkey and the Powers.

He possesses large estates in Hungary, and was once an officer in the Austrian army.

In 1893 he married the Princess Marie Louise, a daughter of the Duke of Parma. He has two sons and a daughter. The Princess Marie Louise died in February, 1899, after having given birth to a daughter.

In 1896 a series of five stamps was issued to commemorate the baptism of Prince Boris, the eldest son, and his admission into the Orthodox Greek Church.

Prince Ferdinand has passed through troublous times of intrigue and Russian opposition to his rule, but as the elected of the people he has justified their choice by restoring quiet and order to his adopted country.

His portrait appears on a fine series of stamps issued in 1902, which is still current.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

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SONGS AND THEIR SINGERS

ADAPTED TO THE TASTE OF THE PERFORMER

By "TANCRED"

No. 2. *Air*: "The Valley of Bhong"—*The Country Girl*.

Sung 'neath the starlit sky of an Indian night by "One Who Knows."

WHEN I started out here, on two hundred a year,
To collect the ubiquitous "smudge,"
I expended my cash without stint on the trash
Which has puzzled a "specialist" judge.

I worked for a year on first issue Kashmir,
Of the sort that they sent to the Pope,
Made on papers a score, and in colours galore
Like the shades of the Maypole soap.

Rare, rare,
Used to be rare!
Rare as a "penny V.R."!
And I sold all the lot,
Which were not worth a jot,
And I really don't know what they are.

There's a "terror" who knows, or, at least, I suppose,
If he thinks that he does, it's the same,
Who told me straight out that I'd better look out,
Or he'd put people up to the game.

For he hinted one day in a casual way
Regarding the "messing of dies,"
That a paper he'd write which would give me a fright
And open philatelists' eyes.

Rare, Rare!
Used to be rare!
Now they're not quoted at all!
Those who *mounted* their prize
Have had opened their eyes,
And found that they "*rode* for a *fall*."

LOOKING BACK

By W. E. IMESON

I

WITH feelings mixed I'm looking back
To my "green" stamp-collecting days;
They're ever rooked that wisdom lack—
Those early days knew wicked ways!
In schoolboy pride of "knowledge" oft
I'd ask, "Do you see any green?"
When "swapping" stamps with some young "soft,"
Who'd look—but not say what he'd seen!

II

I'd "tons" of red, and green, and blue
Natalis and Capes, with margins wide
(I trimmed them close, and live to rue
The day—"Alack-a-day!" I've cried).
How many "swaps" to chums I'd show!—
Intending "bargains" hard to make,
Then let some *rara avis* go
And in return receive—a "fake."

III

For twelve first issue blue Natalis
Brown doled me out a "bob," alas!
Then cleared a "bob," too, on his deals
With Jones (was Brown or Jones the ass?).
Brown was himself (hurrah!) "done brown,"
For Jones an honest dealer found
Who bought the "lot" for "five bob down,"
With, "If you've more, lad, bring 'em round!"

IV

Such tales make old collectors grin,
Whose morals are not up-to-date;
I can't see where the "joke" comes in,
Such wrongs I love to ventilate.
With folk that laugh at truth away
The "still, small voice" counts nothing for,
But my small voice I'd raise to say—
(You've had your say!—*The Editor*).

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2,000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

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NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Belgium.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us another value of the new series, the design of which we will illustrate in a later number. It has the same portrait as the other values in a circle surrounded with a laurel wreath, the name in a straight label at the top in French and Dutch, BELGIQUE—BELGIE, and the usual Sunday label at the foot.

New Portrait of King Leopold. Perf.

- 10 c., rose.
- 20 c., olive-green.
- 25 c., blue.
- 35 c., brown-lilac.

Dominican Republic.—The *American Journal of Philately* has received another lot of surcharges from this country, which, if it keeps on at the rate it has been going lately, will soon be a close second to the Colombian Republic, so far as the number of its recent issues is concerned.

This time the 20 c. of 1885 is the victim, and has been surcharged with three new values: 2 c., 5 c., and 10 c. The surcharge is in three lines, and reads: DOS (CINCO or DIEZ)—1905—CENTAVOS.



*Provisional.
Red surcharge.*

- 2 c. on 20 c., dark brown.
- 5 c. on 20 c. „
- 10 c. on 20 c. „

Jamaica.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* announces the issue of the 3d., olive-green, of the Queen's Head design, on the multiple CA paper. It is curious that the first multiple watermarked stamp from this colony should be on one of the old Queen's Heads, but this selfsame 3d. is an old member of the colony's stamp family. The design was added to the first series in 1863, and from that day to this its colour has been various shades of green. In 1863 it was watermarked with the Pineapple, in 1871-2 the watermark was changed to Crown CC, in 1883-6 to Crown CA, and now it is printed on the multiple CA paper, on which it is surmised it may have but a short life, as it should soon be superseded by the Arms type; but it will not do to reckon on this, for the colony has displayed a fondness for preserving old types, several of which have gone through many changes of watermark with-



out any change of design; to wit, the 4d., 6d., and 1s. of the old design of the first issue are still current.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

3d., olive-green.

Lagos.—The 3d. value is said to have been issued on multiple CA paper. This leaves the 2½d. to complete the series on multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., dull green and green.
- 1d., purple and black on red paper.
- 2d. „ blue.
- 3d. „ red.
- 6d. „ mauve.
- 1s., green and black.
- 2s. 6d. „ carmine.
- 5s. „ blue.
- 10s. „ brown.

Panama.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. the 1 centavo and 2 centavos of the new type for this new republic. Printings of these stamps were some months since made and overprinted for use by the American authorities in the Canal Zone, but the unsurcharged stamps for use in the republic itself, we are informed, have only just been issued.



Perf.

- 1 centavo, green.
- 2 centavos, rose.

Portugal.—Two values, the current 50 reis and 75 reis, are announced with a change of colours, the 50 reis changed from blue to ultramarine, and the 75 reis from rose on white to brown on yellow.



Change of colours.

- 50 reis, ultramarine.
- 75 reis, brown on yellow.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Australian Commonwealth Watermark

I GUESS the announcement of the new watermark paper for the Australian Commonwealth will cause a flutter of expectation amongst our friends the specialists, and give rise to an outbreak of a demand for marginal paper; for, mark you, there is a curious error in the marginal watermark inscription, the word Australia being misspelt on one edge "Australaia." But perhaps I may be allowed to suggest that their hunt may be in vain. I have been shown a full sheet of the new paper by Stanley Gibbons, and am informed that it came out of some waste. Ergo, I imagine that the error was discovered, and the whole supply sent to waste, and that a corrected supply was, or is being, manufactured.



Junior Philatelic Society: Expert Committee

AN interesting announcement comes from the new Expert Committee of the Junior Philatelic Society, of which Mr. J. W. Jones is chairman; Mr. H. Lee, 3, Arbuthnot Road, New Cross, S.E., is secretary; and the other members are Messrs. Charles Nissen, Bertram W. H. Poole, R. S. Farden, and C. J. Patman, comprising a committee.

These gentlemen will meet on the first Wednesday in every month to examine stamps and pass their opinions as to the genuineness or otherwise of specimens submitted. Stamps must be forwarded to Mr. H. Lee, the Secretary to the Committee, before the 25th of the previous month, and the Committee will examine twelve stamps annually for each member free of charge. Over and above twelve stamps the charge will be—

On stamps catalogued up to 10s., 6d. per dozen or less.

On stamps catalogued over 10s., 5 per cent. of current catalogue quotation.

Special charges will be made for examining stamps catalogued over £10 at the discretion of the Committee.

The Expert Committee will also undertake the valuation of stamps and collections at 5 per cent. of amount of value, with a minimum charge of 2s. 6d.

Denmark's New Portrait

It is a little curious that no explanation is forthcoming concerning the rumoured dissatisfaction with, and probable withdrawal of, the new portrait stamps of Denmark. As only two values have been issued of the new series, and as some months have elapsed without further news concerning the issue, one cannot help suspecting that there must be something to explain. Will not some Danish reader of *G.S.W.* enlighten and tell us what has happened, or what is going to happen, to this projected new portrait series?



The Jamaica Surprise

JAMAICA has provided a little surprise for us in the shape of a Queen's Head stamp on multiple paper, and it is assumed that it is a mere makeshift until the same value of the new Arms type is ready for issue.

The possibility of this surmise being correct should hurry up collectors to secure the 3d. Queen's Head multiple CA, but those who speculate in numbers of the stamp on the chance of its turning out to be scarce may, and probably will, burn their fingers.

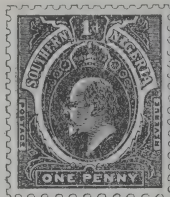
How to Hinge Stamps

SEVERAL of my readers have been trying to draw me as to the different methods of mounting stamps. They point out that our excellent friend the Rev. Mr. Walton recommends hinging at the top, whilst Mr. Editor goes in strong for hinging at the side, and insinuates that those who hinge at the top must have a few slates loose.

Well, I am not going to join Mr. Editor in slating those who hinge at the top, but I think it stands to reason that if you hinge at the side, and let the stamp close down the same way as the book closes, you run less risk of doubling up your stamps than if they are hinged at the top. At all events, I hinge my stamps at the side, and I would add that I wet but a very small edge, about an eighth of an inch, so as to leave as much as possible of the original gum of the stamp untouched.

Single CA's Booming

THOSE readers of *G. S. W.* who have wisely kept up-to-date in securing the King's Head stamps as they came out, will have cause to congratulate themselves on their foresight and their good fortune, for it is getting pretty evident that many single CA's will be among the rarities of the near future.



Of course, when the King's Heads came out first, we all regarded them as a permanent issue, not at all likely to yield anything scarce—stamps, in fact, of a settled supply which could be got at any time; but events have proved the wisdom of the advice to always secure such new issues as you are interested in without delay, because you never know what may happen.

I see in the Southern Nigeria King's Head series our Gibbons leaves the 1s. and £1 single CA unpriced in the 1905 edition, and a dealer is now offering £3 3s. for a mint copy of the £1.

Norwegians

As Norway and Sweden seem determined to part company, there is very naturally much conjecture amongst stamp collectors as to how far the stamps of these countries may be affected by the dissolution of the partnership.

I see no reason why the stamps of Sweden should be affected in any way, nor do I foresee the necessity for any wholesale changes in the stamps of Norway.

The second issue of Norway, 1856-7, bore a portrait of King Oscar I., but since then all the stamps issued have been of the Arms or figure type, with the solitary exception of the two high values, 1 kr. and 2 kr., of 1878.

Of course, in our Gibbons the two countries will go under their separate respective headings instead of being placed as now under Sweden. I am wondering whether the new Gibbons, now going through the press, will take time by the forelock and accept the separation as an accomplished fact.

MISCELLANEOUS

Hawaiian "Missionary" Stamps

AMONG the famous rarities which are scattered here and there on the pages of our catalogues (how we wish we might say the same thing of our albums!) almost every collector would at once recognise the



so-called "Hawaiian Missionaries." To the uninitiated this term would sound somewhat ambiguous, but to one of the elect it would not only be wholly intelligible, but would doubtless produce a longing which in most cases would remain unsatisfied. Now a longing for "missionaries" may be highly laudable, perfectly natural, or an acquired taste, according to the point of view. We do not know that the uncivilised Hawaiians have been credited with the first or debited with the last, but we do know that the philatelist is imbued with the second from first to last; his "missionaries" come high, but he must have them if he can, and if lucky enough to get one he preserves it with the greatest care.

The first American missionaries arrived in Hawaii in 1820, and were the pioneers of a class which has done a wonderful work in Christianising and civilising the native population. To them is due the introduction of the printing press in 1822, the publication of native newspapers in 1834, the establishment of the first newspaper in English in 1836, and the introduction of postage stamps in 1851. It is thus that the first Hawaiian stamps have come to be known as "Missionaries," because not only was their inception due to this community, but they were local productions, made in Honolulu, probably at the office of one of the two papers which I believe were then published there, the *Sandwich Island Gazette* and the *Polynesian*. (The later issues of numeral stamps were made at the office of the latter paper, but I do not now recall any statement as to where the "Missionaries" were printed.)

The first stamps were of three values, 2 cents for postage on newspapers, 5 cents for postage on letters per half-ounce, and 13 cents for letters to the United States. This latter value was made up of 5 cents, the local rate, plus 2 cents, the ship rate or charge for conveyance to San Francisco, plus 6 cents, the United States postage. The latter rate was subsequently raised to 10 cents, making the prepaid rate 17 cents, but was later again changed to the 13 cent rate. Much latitude was allowed the sender, who was only required to prepay the local rate of 5 cents, which he could do in money or by a stamp. The prepayment of the ship and United States charges was optional, and if prepaid could be either in cash, by Hawaiian stamps alone, or by Hawaiian stamps for the local charge, and United States stamps for the remainder, as our own stamps were kept on hand by the principal post offices for such use. In any case, only the Hawaiian stamps were cancelled in the Islands, the United States stamps, if any, being cancelled at San Francisco or Portland, Ore., when delivered to the American post office. All letters fully prepaid, however, bore a postmark in red ink reading HONOLULU above and *U. S. Postage Paid* below, with date in centre. Where United States stamps were affixed to prepay the post-

age in this country no account was made, as they were purchased by the Hawaiian Post Office Department at full face value; but where Hawaiian stamps were used or postage paid in cash, accounting was made quarterly to the Postmaster at San Francisco.

These stamps were issued on October 1st, 1851. They are type-set and printed in pale blue upon a very thin and slightly bluish wove paper. The manner of printing was in pairs upon horizontal strips of paper. The two stamps of the pair differed enough to make two distinct varieties of each value, as noted in the "Standard" catalogue by the laconic remark "Two varieties of each." The difference is in the "P" of "Postage": in one it is as close to the frame line as the "H" of "Hawaiian" and is thus in exact alignment beneath the "H"; in the other it is farther from the frame and the vertical stroke is directly beneath the middle of the "H."

About November, 1852, the 13 cent stamp was modified to read "H. I. & U. S." at the top instead of "Hawaiian," and the "dice" ornament was substituted for the two loops after the numerals. The same two positions of the "P" of "Postage" are found in this stamp.

The 5 cent and 13 cent stamps were of course superseded by the engraved portrait issue about May, 1853. The 2 cent could have been very little used, for it is one of the *rare ayes* of Philately, fewer copies being known than of the more famous "Post Office Mauritius" stamps. Its value is certainly not far from \$3,000, while that of the 5 cent may be placed at perhaps \$500, and the 13 cent at \$350. Of course condition has much to do with the prices, and the "Missionaries" are hard to find in really fine condition.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News.

A Philatelic Station-master

THE station-master at the Royal Albert Dock is a keen collector of stamps. To such an extent is his hobby carried, that the walls and ceiling of the platform office are "papered" with stamps from all parts of the world, collected principally from incoming vessels.

Evening News.

Stamps for the Commonwealth

THE desirability of a uniform Commonwealth stamp to take the place of the six different State sets now in use has been impressed on the successive Postmasters-General. The obstacle to what seems a simple change is the separate keeping of accounts under the book-keeping system, and no way out has yet been discovered. Mr. Sydney Smith's attention has been directed to the question by a deputation comprising Mr. Basset Hull (President of the Sydney Philatelic Club), Mr. Pettifer (Vice-President), Mr. E. D. E. Van Weenan (a member of the council), and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. Smyth). It was pointed out that in view of the possible early termination of the book-keeping period, the Postmaster-General might profitably take the matter in hand. The deputation thought that while designs could be obtained in Australia, better work of this kind might reasonably be expected from England, and the opinion was also expressed that the uniform stamp when introduced should be steel engraved. Stamps now in use in Australia were printed, although the steel engraving had been introduced with great satisfaction into New Zealand. At the Sydney Post Office there was a plant which would do the engraving of all the stamps needed by the Commonwealth. The Postmaster-General said he fully sympathised with the desire for a universal stamp. The matter was now under the consideration of the Cabinet, and he hoped that the difficulties to such a laudable project would be removed.

Sydney Morning Herald.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XIII (continued)

In which John and his stamp are both taken in the very act of flight

BUT a strange murmur began to strike upon John's ears as, worn out with his long run, he began visibly to falter. At first he paid little attention to it, as it was nearly drowned in the barking of all the dogs in the neighbourhood, who had also joined in the chase; but as the cries drew nearer he began to wonder what they meant, and listened carefully as he still ran on.

"Catch the thief! A thief! A thief! Stop him!" were the sounds he heard; and, however surprised he might be, he never for a moment doubted to whom they referred. But the agile American had no time just then to be offended, nor to stop and demand explanations from his pursuers, who were heaping such insulting epithets upon him. For the stamp sped ever onwards.

Suddenly there was a calm. The wind fell, and the little piece of paper settled comfortably down at the foot of a tree about five yards from John, who, though his legs would hardly support him, made one last formidable and prodigious effort, and threw himself on hands and knees on the pavement beside it. This time he had the stamp; he held it in his hand!

Unfortunately, just as John seized it, two vigorous hands caught his shoulders and compelled him to rise.

"Loose me! Let me go!" he cried.

But the hands clasped him all the more firmly. Struggling to free himself, John turned and recognised M. Crabfosse and M. Babuchon. The engraver and the printer, seeing him rush off without paying his account, thought it was a swindler with whom they had to deal, and immediately followed in pursuit. It was they who had started the cries of "Thief! Thief! Stop him!" which had been taken up by the crowd.

"So, so, my good man!" said they. "This is how you get off without paying bills in your country, is it?"

"Bother your bills for a moment!" cried John. "Let me go! Let me go, I say!"

"Pay us first, and we'll see about that afterwards."

"See about it afterwards! I tell you you'd better let me go at once, or else——"

"Or else what?"

"I shall fight."

"We shall see about that, my friend."

"Shall you? See that, then!" And so saying he dealt each of his adversaries two vigorous blows with his fist, thanks to which he found himself free; then he turned to take up the stamp from the foot of the tree where it had fallen, only to discover that, while he had been disputing with his two creditors, a whole crowd of people had collected round them, all gesticulating and crying—

"Take him up! Take him up!"

"Me?" said John. "The first who touches me had better beware!"

And he crossed his arms proudly and looked round with a defiant air on the assembled crowd, and his eyes blazed so that not one of them dared to put his threat into execution. But both M. Crabfosse and M. Babuchon continued to cry excitedly—

"He is a thief! A cheat!"

At length two guardians of the peace arrived—last,

as usual—and, pushing aside the people who surrounded John, came up to him, while one of them demanded—

"What's all this? What's it about?"

"Why, look here——" began the American. But a volley of shouts interrupted him.

"Seize him!" the crowd still clamoured, without even knowing the crime of which the poor fellow was accused. John tried once more to explain, but with no better success, for the cries became more and more menacing. In the midst of the uproar, though, he caught a few scraps of sentences:—

"He is a thief, and has just stolen six pairs of socks from Printemps," said one.

"No, indeed, he is not," returned another. "He is an anarchist, and has just thrown a bomb in the Rue des Pas-Perdus from the Gare Saint-Lazare."

Little groups were beginning to form farther away, in which people spoke of a sensational crime, one man averring that six people had just had their carotid arteries severed, and murmurs were beginning to swell demanding the lynching of the miserable assassin. Poor John would have been torn in pieces had not one of the policemen interfered to save him from the rage of the mob, who were all the more furious the less they knew about the matter. The fact of everyone speaking at once was making the two severe guardians of the public peace very angry.

"It's no use trying to get anything out of them," said one. "You must just come with me to the police station."

"I!" cried John.

"Yes, you, and no resistance, if you please, unless you want to run the gauntlet when you get there."

"Run the gauntlet!"

"Now then, get along."

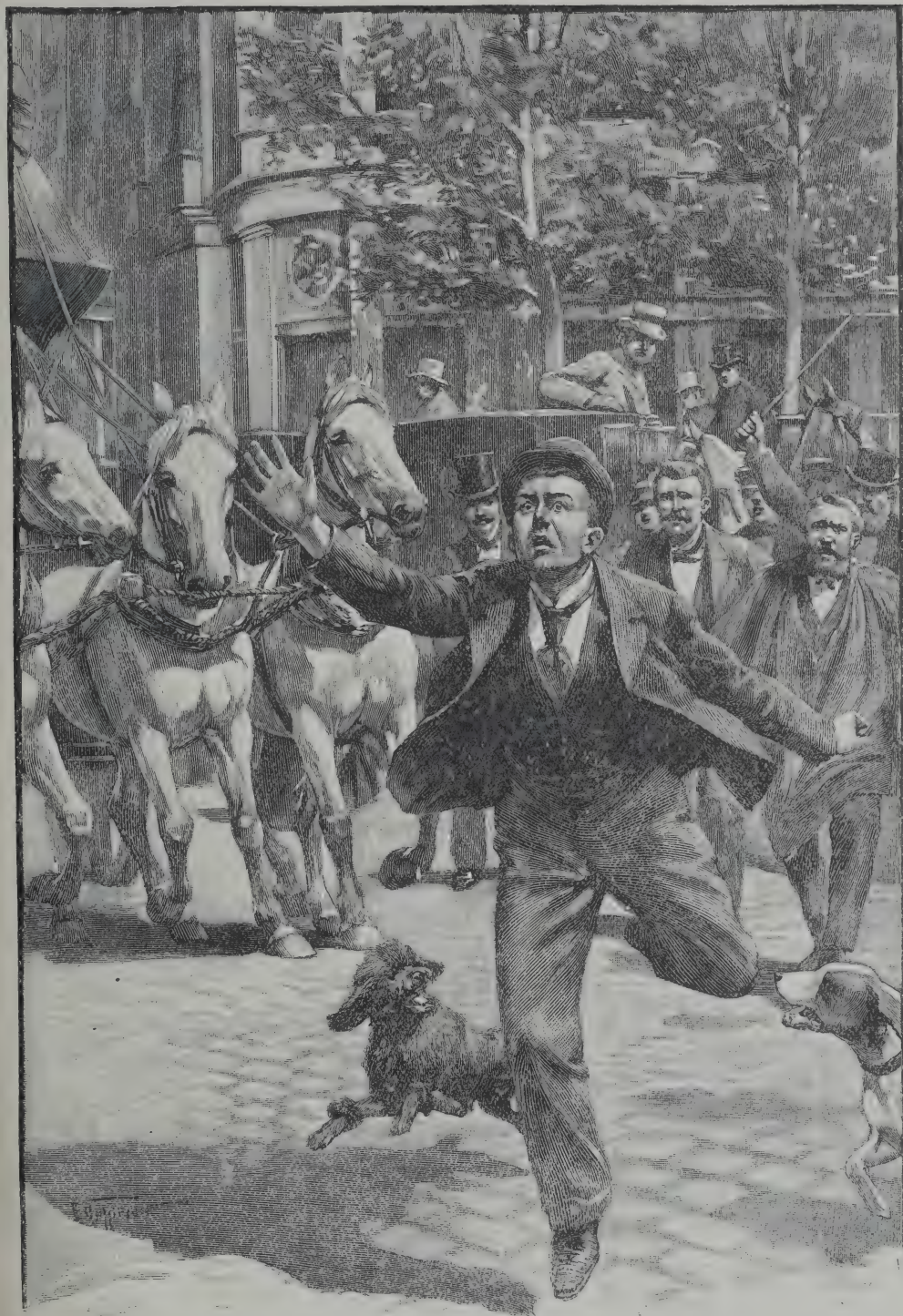
"Oh, I'll come! But these two gentlemen must come with us, as they are the cause of it all."

"They are the cause of it all, are they?" returned the second officer. "Very well; let them follow us—and quietly, if possible."

"Yes, yes, we will follow you," said M. Crabfosse and M. Babuchon with one voice, for, being better acquainted with the habits of the Parisian police, they knew what running the gauntlet meant; that is, a volley of blows administered with fists, boots, sabres, etc., by the whole assembled force. So they did not wish for any nearer acquaintance with this kind of amusement.

John and his two creditors then set off under the protection of the officers, while, a few paces behind, a large crowd, still gesticulating and shouting, formed their escort.

Mr. Keniss' valet was greatly troubled at this adventure and heartily tired of it. As he left the spot where the altercation with M. Crabfosse and M. Babuchon had taken place, he cast one last glance at the foot of the tree where his stamp had fallen, and, misery of miseries, the beautiful gold stamp was no longer there. Mechanically raising his eyes he saw it gracefully borne along by a fresh gust of wind towards the Madeleine. So the beautiful project which he had elaborated with so much care was destroyed at a blow! It was indeed trying to think he had brought his fertile and powerful imagination to bear on a matter that had ended in such a *fiasco*, after a week's anxiety and vicissitudes!



JOHN RUSHED LIKE A HURRICANE THROUGH THE STREETS

"What an idiot I was," he thought, "to destroy the block and the other proofs! Now it will all have to be begun over again, even if I have the courage for it."

While John thus soliloquised, without troubling himself about the virtuous indignation that was poured upon him as he passed, the group of which he formed part arrived at the Poste de l'Opéra. An inspector happened to be there at the moment, who immediately demanded of his subordinates the reason of this triple arrest. The more intelligent of them was about to explain, but scarcely had he opened his mouth when John interrupted him, anxious to put an end to the ridiculous misapprehension of which he was the victim. He quickly recounted the story to the inspector, who could not help laughing heartily.

"Well, sirs," he said, "I suppose none of you wish this matter to go any farther?"

John, M. Crabfosse, and M. Babuchon looked at each other.

"No," they answered in turn.

"Then you have only to settle this little matter of money between you and then you are at liberty to go."

"But—" began M. Babuchon.

"Well?" said the inspector.

"M. John Cockburn favoured us with a few nasty blows just now."

"Oh, that alters the matter altogether! What have you to say to that, M. John Cockburn?"

"Only that I was provoked beyond endurance by the unjust suspicions they showered upon me and the

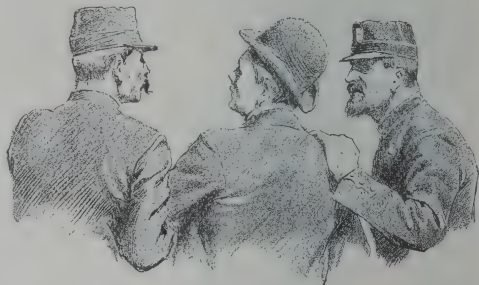
way they were making me lose my stamp. But since they don't like it I take back the blows, and to settle the matter, as a sort of indemnity, I will pay them double if they wish it."

"Do you agree to that?" asked the inspector.

"Yes, yes," returned the printer and engraver in chorus, without even stopping to consult.

"Then you have only to pay it, M. John."

Which John did with an apparent good grace, however highly exasperated he might feel, and then left the office without any sign of farewell, and returned in a melancholy and thoughtful mood to the Terminus Hotel.



(To be continued.)

OUR COMPETITIONS

HERE are a few more selections from the many excellent papers sent in for our best Anecdote or Limerick competition:—

Stamped on the Back

AN amusing trick was played by Fred upon his brother-in-law, Bedford, in a bathing-machine. Bedford had rubbed down, and was about to resume his raiment, when Leslie gave him a slap on the back, which, of course, was a most natural action, and occasioned no surprise. But two or three days afterwards Bedford felt a strange sensation in the middle of his back, and, his wife being asked to look for the cause, found a postage stamp had been firmly stuck upon him midway between the shoulder-blades. "Why, where have you been?" she asked. "Been?" said he. "Why, to town, of course." "Then," she remarked, "you must have come back by post." The stamp was removed by the help of warm water, but Bedford will not soon forget Fred's slap on the back.

From *Recollections of Fred Leslie*.

A Valet's Philatelic Windfall

A FEW years ago there died in the city of Glasgow an old man, who lived in a large house along with his two old servants—a cook and a valet. When his will was read it was found that he had left £200 to the cook, but what was the surprise of all when it was discovered that he had only left an old writing-desk to the valet!

On opening the desk, the valet discovered it to be packed full of stamps. These he took to a philatelist, who offered him £500 for them, which he accepted. The philatelist, it is said, shortly afterwards sold them for £750.

PERCY PRESTON.

A Penny to Pay

SOME years ago, the rural letter-carrier left three letters at a country house and sent a message to say that "there was a penny to pay for one of them." The lady examined the letters, and, finding they were properly stamped and no overcharge marked on them, told the letter-carrier he was mistaken. "Very likely, Miss," he said. "Master" (naming the post-master) "told me there was a penny to collect from someone, and I thought I might try and get it from you before I forgot all about it."

Limericks

There once was a youth of Mauritius,
With tendencies terribly vicious;
He stole a rare stamp,
This shocking young scamp—
'Twas the *twopenny* P.O. *Mauritius*!

FRED EDMONDS.

There was a young man of Mauritius,
Whose "Post Office" gems were delicious;
But they said, "We're afraid
These are only 'Post Paid'!"—
Which made that young person feel vicious.

REV. P. E. RAYNOR.

Many brand-new sets from the East,
All manner of men and of beasts;
But are they the thing,
Or are they to bring
The dibs from the easily fleeced?

ALFRED ERNEST MARTEN.

A Letter from Purgatory

AN amusing story was told me by an old lady who had an ancient servant named Ann Brady, that had lived with her for many years. One day Ann came to her mistress in the parlour crying, "Now am not I the unfortunate woman? Och, what will I do at all at all?" "What's the matter, Ann?" said her mistress. "Och, ma'am," replied Ann, "the postman's outside, and he's got a letter for me from Purgatory, and I know its from me ould mother, who's bin there this tin years, and it's all about me not paying for the masses

I said I would. Ochone! but I am the miserable woman." On going out her mistress found the postman in a fit of laughter, with a letter addressed to "Ann Brady" from the "Dead Letter Office." Nothing could persuade Ann to touch it; to her "Dead" meant Purgatory and nothing else. Her mistress had to open it for her, when it proved to be one Ann had written to a nephew in Clare, but as he had gone to America the letter had been returned. (From Colonel Stuart's *Reminiscences of a Soldier*.)

REV. P. E. RAYNOR.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Belgium

RESUMING my comparison of prices in the forthcoming Part II. of Gibbons' Catalogue, by favour of the advanced sheets, I find no alterations in this country, nor in its Congo State, till I come to the 10 c. of 1895, variety with centre inverted, which in the new Catalogue is raised from 50s. to 60s. for an unused copy.

Bolivia

IN the 1878 series, eleven stars, the 50 centavos, unused, left unpriced in the last Catalogue, is now priced 12s. 6d.; used it is raised from 1s. 6d. to 2s.

The 10 centavos, nine stars, of 1890, unused, left unpriced in the last Catalogue, is now priced 2s., and used, priced evidently in error last year at 2s. 6d., is now priced 3d.

Brazil

THE early issues remain as before, and it is not till I come to the 1878-80 series that any change has to be noted, and then more a correction than an alteration of market value. In the 1904 Catalogue the 700 reis, brown-red, which was priced 10s. unused and 7s. 6d. used, is now priced 10s. and 1s.

The differences in the re-engraved types of 1900-4 are illustrated and made understandable by means of four enlarged reproductions, all of which are listed, but none of which are priced. A special footnote explains how the difference arose.

Bulgaria

THE reviser has been busy with the first three issues of this country, as may be seen from the following lists:—

| 1879. | 1904. | | 1905. | |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Un. | Used. | Un. | Used. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 c., black and orange . . . | 0 8 | 1 0 | 0 9 | 1 3 |
| 5 c., " yellow . . . | 2 0 | — | 6 0 | 3 0 |
| 10 c., " green . . . | 6 0 | 6 0 | 6 0 | 6 0 |
| 25 c., " purple . . . | 3 0 | 1 6 | 2 6 | 2 6 |
| 50 c., " blue . . . | 3 0 | 4 0 | 3 6 | 4 0 |
| 1 fr., " rose-red . . . | 2 6 | 1 3 | 3 6 | 2 6 |

| 1881. | 1904. | | 1905. | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Un. | Used. | Un. | Used. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 3 st., dull carmine and grey . . . | 0 3 | 0 4 | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 5 st., black and yellow . . . | 0 5 | 0 4 | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 10 st., " green . . . | 4 0 | 1 0 | 4 0 | 1 6 |
| 15 st., dull carmine and green . . . | 4 0 | 1 0 | 4 0 | 1 0 |
| 25 st., black and purple . . . | 12 0 | 5 0 | 1 0 | 4 0 |
| 30 st., blue and brown . . . | 4 0 | 0 4 | 4 0 | 0 6 |

| 1882. | 1904. | | 1905. | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Un. | Used. | Un. | Used. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 3 st., pale orange and yellow . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 3 st., orange and yellow . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 5 st., grey-green and pale green . . . | 0 4 | 0 1 | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 5 st., deep and pale green . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 10 st., carmine and pale rose . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 | 0 3 | 0 2 |

| 1882. | 1904. | | 1905. | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | Un. | Used. | Un. | Used. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 10 st., scarlet and pale rose . . . | 0 4 | 0 2 | 0 6 | 0 2 |
| 10 st., red . . . | 0 4 | 0 1 | 1 0 | 0 1 |
| 15 st., deep and pale purple . . . | 0 3 | 0 1 | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 15 st., lilac-mauve . . . | 0 4 | 0 1 | 0 9 | 0 2 |
| 25 st., blue and pale blue . . . | 0 5 | 0 1 | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 30 st., deep violet and green . . . | 0 9 | 0 2 | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 30 st., purple . . . | 0 9 | 0 2 | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 50 st., blue and rose . . . | 1 3 | 0 3 | 1 6 | — |
| 50 st., " flesh . . . | 1 0 | 0 3 | 1 6 | 0 3 |

Chili

THE early or Perkins Bacon types of this republic have almost all been increased in price, some considerably so. The 5 centavos, used, of the first issue, on blue paper, which in 1902 was going a-begging at 8d. a copy, is now priced 15s. The 20 centavos of 1862 has been raised from 12s. and 8s. 6d. to 15s. for both unused and used, and the 20 centavos, green, of 1867, unused, has been raised from 3s. 6d. to 5s.

In the 1877-8 series, the 5 c., lake, unused, has been raised from 1s. to 2s., the 10 c., blue, unused, from 2s. to 3s., the 20 c., green, unused, from 4s. to 5s., and the 50 c., lilac, unused, from 6s. to 7s. 6d.

The 30 c., rose-carmine, of 1892-1900, which has been marked down for a rise because the stock was largely used for the provisional 5 c. on 30 c., remains at 2s., unused.

Of the Waterlow types of 1900-1 the 20 centavos seems to be very scarce. Last year it was priced at 2s. unused, but in the new Catalogue the price has been raised to 10s. For some reason or another the supplies of this stamp were never abundant, even when it was current.

China

THE grand stamps of this philatelically most interesting country have undergone slight advances here and there, but nothing to indicate anything like an active demand for issues that are cheap, clean from jobbery, quaint, and truly Oriental.

In the 1895 series the 24 c. has been advanced from 3s. 6d. and 2s. to 6s. for both unused and used, but the *tête-bêche* pair catalogued in 1904 at 30s. is dropped to 10s., due no doubt to the great number of copies sold by auction in London during the past season.

In the 1897 series of Japanese plates the \$5, long regarded as a promising stamp, has been raised from 50s. to 80s.

Crete

PASSING over the complexities of Colombo, Corea, with its few changes, mostly reductions in pence, and Costa Rica, we come to Crete, which only started in the stamp line in 1898, but already fills six columns of Gibbons.

The rare first issue remains at 40s. unused and 30s.

used, to which it was reduced last year from 65s. and 45s. in the 1903 Catalogue.

The 2 metallik, rose, of the Russian sphere, left unpriced in the last Catalogue, is now priced at 30s.

In the overprinted series of 1900 the higher values overprinted in vermillion, unused, have been advanced in price: 1 dr. from 3s. to 4s., the 2 dr. from 6s. to 7s. 6d., and the 5 dr. from 20s. to 30s.

Denmark

WITH the exception of dropping the first 2 R.B.s., unused, of the first issue from 80s. to 70s., and raising used copies of the same stamp from 12s. 6d. to 15s., the reviser has passed lightly over the stamps of Denmark.

Danish West Indies

EVEN the advanced prices of Danish West Indies are maintained despite the abandonment of the proposed sale of the islands to the United States, which caused such a boom in these stamps a couple of years ago.

Iceland

ICELAND, which was a cheap little country a few years ago—in fact, quite an ideal lot for a lad—is now creeping up into the ranks of the specialised, and prices are consequently advancing by leaps and bounds.

In the new Catalogue there is a more or less general advance of prices all along the line.

In the first issue the prices have gone up for unused and used:—

| 1873. | 1904. | | 1905. | |
|-------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 3 skill., grey | 3 6 | 5 0 | 5 0 | 6 0 |
| 4 skill., carmine | 15 0 | 10 0 | 17 6 | 15 0 |
| 16 skill., yellow | 4 0 | 5 0 | 6 0 | 6 0 |

In the 1876 series the 5 aur, blue, has been raised from 10s. and 5s. to 12s. and 6s., and the 40 aur, green, from 5s. and 4s. to 7s. 6d. and 5s.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

S. A. M. (Southport).—The current rd. of Victoria runs in many distinct shades, but what you send and label "new" is the darkest shade we have seen.

F. J. M. (Brixton).—Surely you find in the articles now running in our pages, under the head of "Countries of the World," plenty of information for your "Little Moguls," who cannot afford more than 2s. 6d. to 5s. at most for a stamp. As to your collection of Great Britain, why not give up "Officials," and confine yourself to the ordinary postal issues? Fill up your modern series, and work back as the opportunity and your spare cash will allow you.

W. A. W. (Croydon).—There is no need of a diagram to put you in the way of hinging a stamp. Wet about the eighth of an inch of the end of the hinge and lay this on the left-hand edge of the gummed side of the stamp, then double the hinge back so that it will just escape showing under the perforation. Wet the other end of the hinge and affix it in its position in the album.

We don't quite understand what you mean by left- and right-hand pages. You must hinge your stamps on the right-hand page only. If you hinge stamps also on the opposite page they will be continually catching in each other, to say nothing of the havoc which friction will work on delicate stamps when rubbed against each other on opposite pages.

S. R. (Canada).—No, indeed, it is not often that the cancellation falls on the flap of the envelope instead of on the stamp, though such accidents to letters received by us would materially help in our domestic arrangements. We are anxious to get a host of good friends like yourself for *G. S. W.* in Canada.

F. G. (Halifax).—We do not publish the rules of the Junior Philatelic Society, but you can get a copy by sending a penny stamp to the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, London, S.W. Can't you get up a society in Halifax?

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged; R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

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VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Alwar



south-west of Delhi, with a population in 1901 of 56,771.

Dr. Hunter tells us that originally Alwar State consisted of petty chiefships, which till the middle of the last century owed allegiance to Jaipur and Bhartpur. The romantic growth of the State is thus described by Dr. Hunter:—

“The founder of the present family was Pratáp Sinh, a Naruka Rájput, who at first possessed but two villages and a half, Machari being one of them. During the minority of the Maharaja of Jaipur, and while Jats, Mughals, and Marhattas were contending with each other, he succeeded, between 1771 and 1776, in establishing independent power in the greater part of the territory which now forms the southern half of the State. In the war carried on by Mirza Najif Khan against the Jats, he united his forces at an opportune moment with those of the former, and aided him in defeating the enemy at Barsana and at Dig. As a reward for his services he obtained the title of Rao Raja, and a *sanad* authorising him to hold Machari direct. In 1776 he took advantage of the weakness of Bhartpur to wrest from the Jats the town and fort of Alwar. His brethren of the Naruka clan of Rajputs then acknowledged him as their chief. He was

DR. HUNTER, in his monumental *Imperial Gazetteer of India*, tells us that the name of this native State of India is properly spelt “Alwar,” yet, strange to say, we find it placed under the letter U and spelt “Ulwar.” In the early days of the East India Company it was known as Machery, from a town of that name.

It is bounded on the north by the British district of Gurgaon, on the east by the State of Bhartpur, on the south and west by the State of Jaipur.

It has an area of 3,144 square miles, with a population in 1901 of 828,487. Its capital is Alwar, about eighty-five miles

succeeded by his adopted son, Bakhtawar Sinh, during whose time the country was overrun by the Marhattas. At the commencement of the Marhatti war of 1803-6, Bakhtawar Sinh allied himself with the British Government; and the famous battle of Laswari, in which Sindhia's forces were completely defeated by Lord Lake, was fought about seventeen miles east of the town of Alwar. After this campaign, the British Government conferred on Bakhtawar Sinh the northern districts of the present State, and thereby raised his revenue from seven to ten lakhs."

In 1803 the State was placed under British protection, and a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance was concluded, on the basis that Alwar should pay no tribute, but that its troops should co-operate with the British Government when required.

After many lapses from the path of loyalty, in 1870 a council of management, presided over by a British officer, was appointed, by whom the State was governed.

The present Maharaja succeeded in 1892, and his importance as a chief is emphasised by the fact that he is entitled to a salute of fifteen guns.

Its Philatelic History

Philatelically, the State of Alwar belongs to the class of Native Feudatory States. Only one issue stands to its credit in our philatelic list, supplemented by the issue of one value with a redrawn type of the first and only design.

The design is a crude one of local production. It represents a dagger with inscription above and below in Devanagari characters, which Major Evans tells us, in his admirable articles in the *Monthly Journal* on the Stamps of the Native States, reads on top, "ra-j-a-l-w-r," divided as indicated by the hyphens, and on the lower inscription the value.

The stamps were lithographed on unwatermarked paper, and were issued in 1877-8.

In 1899-1901 the design of the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna was redrawn, but in 1902 the State discontinued its separate issue of postage stamps.

The *Philatelic Journal of India* gives the following explanation of the dagger design:—

"The curious dagger, known as a *katar*, which is so prominent on the stamps of Alwar, owes its presence there to the following legend connected with the reigning family of that State. Mairaj, the father of Naru, who founded the Narukha clan who rule Alwar, was once at war with Kalodar Jhala of Jhalrapatan. After much fighting, an interview was arranged between the two monarchs. When they were squatting on the ground facing one another, four of Jhala's men pinioned Mairaj's arms behind him with intent to murder him. Mad at the treachery, but unable to use his hands, Mairaj gripped Jhala's *katar* with his toes, pulled it out of his waist-band, and ended the traitor's career by stabbing him in the stomach. The legend is quite likely true, as the Indian has marvellously prehensile toes, and the broad handle grip of the *katar* would lend itself to use of this kind. Anyhow, that is why we find the *katar* on the stamps of Alwar."

1877. Two values, lithographed on unwatermarked paper and rouletted. Design, a dagger with inscriptions in Devanagari characters above and below; the upper inscription being the name of the State, and the lower inscription the value.



1877.

Lithographed and rouletted.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, blue . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 1 anna, brown . . . | 0 5 | 0 3 |

1899-1901. Same type, but redrawn and issued in slate-blue and in green.

1899-1901.

Type redrawn.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, slate-blue . . . | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, green . . . | 0 1 | — |

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 4.)

Stamps without a Name (continued)

THE reader will doubtless remember that when we introduced the subject of "Stamps without a Name," we deemed it expedient to consider the matter under four headings. The first dealt with those nameless stamps which had, as the prominent feature of the design, the figure or bust of the reigning monarch or of an illustrious person, or an allegorical picture. The second heading included those in which the central designs were coats-of-arms or emblems. These have now been reviewed fairly exhaustively. They comprise the great majority of "Stamps without a Name." We come now to consider those stamps in which the central design consists of numerals of value or written characters.

Issues in which large numerals figure as the *pièce de résistance* have never found much favour in the eyes of the postal administrations of the stamp-issuing countries. Consequently their numbers are few. The first that comes under our notice ought not to have a place under "Stamps without a Name" at all. In consequence, however, of the difficulty which many beginners have in locating the said series, I have ventured to include them, and beg to introduce to the reader the third issue of Hungary, which first saw the light in 1874. The design of this series was an envelope, with large numerals of value inscribed thereon. Above the envelope rests the Hungarian crown. A post-horn and laurel branches adorn the other three sides of the envelope. MAGYAR KIR. POSTA. is inscribed below. "Magyar" (or Magyarország) is the native name for Hungary, and the inscription stands for "Royal Hungarian Post."

A similar issue was brought out in 1887. The envelope in the centre was smaller. The inscriptions were in larger type, and the numerals of value were printed in a different colour from the rest of the stamp.

An example of the earlier issues is given below.

HUNGARY.



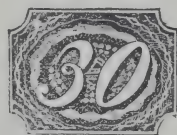
1874-6.

Among the first countries to follow the lead of Great Britain and enable its people to prepay the postage on letters by means of stamps was Brazil. Dom Pedro II. was Emperor. Crowned in 1841, he reigned until 1889, when a revolution broke out. The empire became a republic, and Dom Pedro and his family were exiled. It was in 1843 that the first issue of postage stamps appeared in Brazil. The designs were of the crudest. Numerals of value were inscribed on an oval which was enclosed in a double-lined rectangle. In the following year, further additions were made to the series, and the shape of the rectangle was altered by clipping curved pieces out of the corners. In 1850 a return was made to the original shape of the rectangle, which was much smaller than the type of 1843 and filled in with lines. These latter designs continued in use until 1866, when the head of Dom Pedro appeared in the central design. Illustrations of the numerical series are appended.

BRAZIL.



1843.



1844.



1850.



1854-61.

The first issue of Denmark in 1851 consisted of two values of two and four rigsbank-skilling. The latter has already been dealt with on page 325 of vol. i. of the *Weekly*. The reader is kindly referred to that page for details as to the currency value of the rigsbank-skilling. The smaller value seems to have been issued for use in the city of Copenhagen. Its design consisted of a circle in which was inscribed 2 RIGSBANK-SKILLING. The circular band contained the inscription KGL. POST FRIMÆRKE. Ornamental lines filled in the rest of the stamp.

DENMARK.



1851.

The catalogues include Baden under the heading of Germany. Baden is responsible for a peculiar issue in 1862. The stamps go by the name of Land-Post or Rural Post stamps. In 1859 a messenger service was established to connect the villages that had no post offices with the nearest State Post Office. This service was improved in 1862, and stamps of the value of one, three, and twelve kreuzer were issued for its use. The numeral of value appeared in the centre. LAND-POST was inscribed above, and underneath was the inscription PORTOMARKE, *i.e.* Postage Due Stamp. The stamps were not on sale to the public, but were used only by the officials of this rural post. Separate issues for Baden ceased in 1871. In the following year nearly a million of these Land-Post stamps were sold to a Hamburg stamp merchant. Consequently, a full set of three unused can be obtained for sixpence. Used specimens are rare.

BADEN.



1862.

The duchies of Schleswig and Holstein formed part of the kingdom of Denmark

for many years. The inhabitants were mainly of German descent, and consequently insurrections against Danish rule were frequent. In 1863 Austria and Prussia made war on Denmark, and in the following year the two duchies were given up to the allies.

The war between Austria and Prussia led to the incorporation of both duchies with Prussia in 1866. In 1864 the inhabitants were notified that Danish stamps would no longer be available for postal purposes in Holstein. Accordingly a stamp of $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling was issued; 16 schilling went to the mark, which was worth about 1s. 2d.

The central design of this stamp contained the inscription of value, $1\frac{1}{4}$ SCHILLING CRT. A square frame surrounded the circular band. Round the frame was inscribed HRZGL POST FRM, which was the abbreviation for Herzogliche Post Freimarke, *i.e.* Ducal Postal Stamp. 4 SRM at the base of the stamp stood for 4 skilling Reichs Münze, the Danish equivalent of $1\frac{1}{4}$ schilling.

Later in the same year, 1864, a similar design was issued. The numerals in the centre were larger, and 4 SRM gave place to $1\frac{1}{2}$ SLM, which initials stood for Schilling Lauenburgische Münze. The five letters FRMRK (Freimarken) appeared on the right-hand side of the stamp to balance the letters HRZGL on the left-hand side.

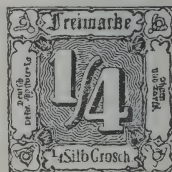
HOLSTEIN.



1864.

The stamps of Thurn and Taxis do not belong to the list of "Stamps Without a Name." They have the name in very small print on the right-hand side of the stamp, as the beginner may readily see by examining the annexed illustration.

THURN AND TAXIS.



1852-8.

(To be continued.)

BY-PATHS OF PHILATELY

PICTURE STAMPS AND METHODS OF ARRANGEMENT

By H. R. OLDFIELD

(Continued from page 6.)

1. Pictures of Scenery

SO far as pictures of scenery are concerned, the best method of arrangement seems to be according to the countries issuing them, and I have adopted an alphabetical sequence in preference to a geographical classification.

The stamps of each country are, of course, mounted in order of date, and each one should be properly described, the subject of the picture stated, and, if necessary, the cause of the issue explained.

This class includes the Sydney View stamps of 1850, which were the first undoubtedly picture stamps to be issued,



and also the New Zealand sets of 1902 and subsequently, about which there has been so much controversy of late.

The design of the Sydney View stamps has been the subject of considerable discussion and research, and a water-colour sketch is in the possession of a prominent philatelist, from which it is said this design was taken. It is also stated to be a copy of the Colonial Government seal.

Among other stamps included in this class the following may be noted.

Bahamas.—The 1d. value of 1901 illustrating what is called "The Queen's Staircase."



It is a curious fact that the formation of all the islands is a calcareous rock, which under the surface is soft and easily fashioned, but when exposed to the air becomes as hard as flint.

Jamaica.—The 1d. value of 1900 illustrating the Llandoverly Falls.



Malta.—The 1/4d. value with its view of the harbour.



British Guiana.—1898. 2 cent value.



British North Borneo.—1894 and 1897. 18 cents value of 1897.



The lower values up to 18 cents were said in 1904 to have been the handsomest stamps issued up to then.

Congo State.—1894. 50 cent value. M'poso Railway Bridge.



2. Pictures Illustrative of Historical Events

The stamps illustrating historical events should, I think, be arranged according to the dates of issue, and the work of description, while equally necessary, is rendered lighter in many cases by the inscriptions upon the stamps themselves. This class also contains examples of recognised and valuable issues such as the 15 and 24 cent values in 1869 of the



U.S.A., as well as samples of the unnecessary and speculative which may be found among the Portuguese specimens. A large proportion of the numerous commemorative issues come under this heading, and in my first tentative arrangement I grouped them together under "Historical and Commemorative Issues," but I soon found that this arrangement clashed with some of the other groups, and modified it accordingly. Indeed, one of the difficulties of the classification of Picture Stamps is that several of them seem to belong to more than one class.

The Columbus Centenary proved very attractive to several countries, and besides the well-known issue of 1893 by the

U.S. of America, the following countries indulged in Commemorative issues to a smaller extent, viz. Nicaragua, Salvador, and Venezuela. The designs of the U.S.A. stamps were taken from well-known paintings and from Spanish engravings.

Nicaragua.—1892. Discovery by Columbus of America.



Salvador.—1892. Landing of Columbus.



Venezuela.—1893. Landing of Columbus.



U.S.A.—1893. Landing of Columbus.



(To be continued.)

STANLEY GIBBONS PRICED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.

Vol. I. Great Britain and Colonies; post-free, 2s. 9d. Vol. II. The Rest of the World; post-free, 2s. 9d.
Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

HOW TO DIVERT

WITH APOLOGIES TO MR. IMESON (Vol. I. p. 378)

By C. RAYMOND MEGSON

THERE was once a boy called Tommy Jones, and Tommy loved stamps. All his spare cash went to the stamp dealer, and all his spare time was spent with his beloved stamps. Tommy's papa had no sympathy with Tommy's hobby; he called it "Tommy-rot." But then pa could understand very little else than sirloins and shoulders. He had made quite a lot of money by dexterously throwing three-quarters of a pound of steak on the scale and making it turn at a pound.

One day Tommy fell ill. The doctor shook his solemn head, and said, "Very, very ill." Tommy's pa was well-to-do, that is why the doctor said "Very, very ill." The doctor said that Tommy would have to take more exercise when he recovered, if he managed to pull through. Tommy was out of bed in less than a week, anxious to get at his stamps. But, poor Tommy! pa had sold his collection to defray part expenses of a nice new bicycle for Tommy to take more exercise. Tommy sighed, but bore the ordeal philosophically, which was the best thing to do, seeing pa had a big stick, and, my word, he knew how to use it too!

Pa saw that Tommy at first was very gloomy over his loss; but Tommy soon regained his usual spirits, and pa's heart beat happily, for his son soon became very anxious to take a spin on his machine whenever opportunity offered. But pa had some misgivings in his narrow mind. Though Tommy spoke of his long rides, he never seemed hot and tired, and Tommy should have been, according to the laws of nature, for he was a fat young boy.

Pa, in order to ease his misgivings, bought Tommy a nice cyclometer to affix to his bicycle. Before each ride he would turn the indicator to zero, and notice the indication thereon when Tommy returned. But pa was pleased, for it always registered between ten and twenty miles.

Foolish papa! he did not know that Tommy hied to the garden of a philatelic friend, and, turning his bicycle upside

down, set the front wheel spinning while he pored over King's Heads, single watermarks, and measured his perfs., in a new collection he had started, and which he kept at his friend's house.

All went very well until one night Tommy rode home and pa met him at the door. He looked at the cyclometer, then at Tommy, and puckered his brow. "Good gracious, Tommy, you haven't ridden eighty-eight miles since you started out to-night." Tommy looked at the cyclometer, and then looked disconcerted. "Don't whack me, dad," he cried, "but I must have turned the wheel the wrong way." Pa turned Tommy the wrong way, and did whack him.

This sad little story has a happy little ending. Pa having gained sufficient worldly goods to enable him to live with his family in comfort without working any more, vacated his shop and took up his residence in a nice little cottage in the country. Time sometimes hung heavily on the hands of the erstwhile busy man, and once or twice he had looked at Tommy, who had never recovered from the loss of his stamps, and he had no friends in his new world to whom he could even talk about stamps. Pa noticed these sad and wistful moments, and so far relented as to buy Tommy one birthday a new "Improved" Postage Stamp Album (you know the sort I mean, don't you? No. 4, handsomely half bound, art vellum sides, etc. Well, you must have heard of them, if you haven't seen them, and I should advise all such to call and inspect them if ever they go along the Strand), and also a packet of 1,500 varieties. Tommy's philatelic heart beat with untold pleasure. He kissed his old dad, who watched the son mounting his stamps, and became so interested in the little tit-bits of information which Tommy gave him about them, that he started, at his old age (fifty-four) a collection of his own, and says he is sorry he has wasted so many precious years of his life as a non-collector.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Cuba.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S., says:—

"Washington collectors are asking for information concerning the new Cuban stamps, but nobody in this city has been able to get any information. The plates so long used in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are now in the hands of the New York Bank Note Company, and the stamps are being printed from these plates, though on a different kind of paper, it is said."

Cucuta.—The last set of stamps for this Colombian state have now been issued in new colours.

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 centavo, | yellow-green on yellow. | |
| 2 centavos, | pale red | " |
| 5 " | deep blue | " |
| 10 " | brown | " |
| 20 " | deep green | " |
| 50 " | vermilion | " |
| 1 peso, | mauve on white. | |

Hungary.—The *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* states that twenty sheets of 100 of the 50 filler were printed in lilac-red instead of dark red. Ten sheets of the error were purchased and used up by one of the lotteries, whilst the other ten were placed on sale at the G.P.O. Six had been sold before a stamp collector came along, and, according to *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, it is now argued that only four are likely to come on the stamp market.

Natal.—We have received from our publishers the current 4d. King's Head on the multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., light green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 4d., carmine and cinnamon.
- 2s. 6d., purple.

Philippines.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S., says:—

"It now appears that owing to an unprecedented rush at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, caused by the tremendous demand for National Bank notes, and other supplies, the Bureau has been compelled to abandon, practically, work on the new Philippine stamps for some time. At present little, if anything, is being done on the three low values already started, and the prospect now is that it will be several months before the work will be actively taken up again. This state of affairs is due to the fact that the Insular Bureau of the War Department is not pressing the matter; in fact, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing was given to understand that there was no particular hurry, and that the Bureau could take practically its own time in getting out the new series. For this reason it is not expected that any of the new stamps will be ready for use much before late in the fall.

"The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is now at work on a large order for surcharged stamps for the Philippines, to be put up in books. Of course, the two cent denomination only is surcharged."

Santander.—This Colombian state, like Cucuta, has changed the colour of its stamps as follows:—

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 5 centavos, | pale blue. |
| 10 " | red-brown. |
| 20 " | yellow-green. |
| 50 " | red-violet. |
| 1 peso, | dark blue. |
| 5 pesos, | dull rose. |
| 10 " | red. |

Spain.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 15 c. stamp changed in colour from blue-black to violet. Control numbers on the back as before.

The portrait, by the way, is getting a little out of date. It represents the young King of six years ago, when he was a mere boy.



Colour changed.

15 c., violet.

Straits Settlements.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that they have received the 25 c., 30 c., and \$1 stamps with multiple watermarks, but do not say whether the stamps are of the new design or of the old King's Head type. As they do not mention the type, we presume the stamps referred to are of the old King's Head type. It is singular that the larger Head of King type is not being proceeded with.

Transvaal.—Our publishers send us the 1s. value on multiple CA paper. The colours are as in the single CA, medallion in slate, and rest of the design in brown. The new Gibbons makes a slip in describing the medallion of the single CA as black.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., bluish green and black.
- 1d., carmine and black.
- 1s., brown and slate.

MISCELLANEOUS

Honolulu Collections

HONOLULU is, without doubt, one of the most pleasant and beautiful spots on earth. In spite of the tropical vegetation the climate is most equable, and the heat is seldom oppressive. Sunstroke is unknown, and there is little danger of catching colds or fever, as the temperature seldom drops suddenly.

There are several enthusiastic collectors in the Islands, and there is the nucleus of a very fine collection at the Bishop Museum. It includes a very fine copy of the Two Cents, and fair copies of the Five and both types of the Thirteen Cents of the first issue of Hawaii. Unfortunately these stamps are tightly pasted down. The later issues are not very strongly represented.

There is another fine collection of Hawaiians, containing exceptionally fine copies of the Five and both types of the Thirteen Cents of the first issue. This collection is very strong in the *numerals*, which have been plated according to Mr. H. J. Crocker's arrangement. It contains only specimens in the finest condition; and although the owner tells me he has had very few opportunities of seeing other collections, it is arranged on the most up-to-date lines and is a model of neatness. In addition to this he has a large general collection.—*Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg on his trip round the world in the "Monthly Journal."*

"C.E.F." Printings

THE following statement contributed by Mr. A. F. Thompson (Tientsin) to the *Philatelic Journal of India*, shows the number of each denomination of stamps surcharged "C.E.F." (China Expeditionary Force) received by the Field Post Office between July, 1900, and the beginning of January, 1905; the number sold during that period, and the number in hand on the 3rd of January, 1905.

| Denomination. | No. received. | No. sold. | No. in hand. |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ a., carmine . . . | 331,520 | 247,659 | 83,861 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ a., green . . . | 420,480 | 373,784 | 46,696 |
| 1 a., plum . . . | 221,640 | 219,310 | 2,330 |
| 1 a., carmine . . . | 29,720 | 7,471 | 22,249 |
| 2 a., blue . . . | 39,680 | 29,846 | 9,834 |
| 2½ a., green . . . | 27,040 | 20,909 | 6,131 |
| 3 a., orange . . . | 22,800 | 18,141 | 4,659 |
| 4 a., grey-green . . . | 24,800 | 20,697 | 4,103 |
| 8 a., mauve . . . | 19,720 | 16,697 | 3,023 |
| 12 a., purple on red . . . | 14,666 | 13,777 | 889 |
| 1 r., green and carmine | 17,640 | 15,191 | 2,449 |

Proposed International Stamp

A POSTAL reform that is bound to come some day is brought a step nearer to realisation by the appeal of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce to the German Government to take the initiative in bringing before the Postal Union a proposal for the introduction of an international stamp. The present lack of such a stamp causes inconvenience in at least two ways. We are without any proper means of remitting abroad such small sums of money as the fivepence which a French

newspaper exacts from a subscriber when he changes his address; and we cannot, in corresponding with foreign firms, or asking for their catalogues, enclose stamped directed envelopes for a reply. There is, of course, the resource of seeking out a stamp dealer, and buying French, German, or Italian stamps at 50 per cent. above their face value from him; but this is a clumsy, costly plan, which most of us find too troublesome to adopt, with the result that letters get left unanswered and international trade suffers. The remedy proposed should be the more readily adopted because a certain number of countries have already conceded the principle by printing international reply post cards.—*Daily Graphic.*

The "Million Stamps" Story

A CORRESPONDENT gives the following explanation of the origin of the "million stamps myth," which I discussed in a recent article. In the early days of postage stamps it was an easy matter to remove the obliterating postmark with benzine. This being done, the stamp being separated from the paper to which it was attached, and the back of it regummed, the stamp could be sold as a new one. My correspondent thinks that a considerable trade was done in remade postage stamps in this way, and so a certain demand grew up for large quantities of used penny stamps, and the fiction that a million of them would get a child into an orphan asylum or a hospital, or some such institution, was started to facilitate the business of collecting them in large quantities. Whether there is anything in this suggestion I do not know, but this method of remaking postage stamps has long been extinct, the Post Office having successfully defeated any such attempts. At the present time the printing ink of the stamps and the ink of the postmarks are made with the same solvent, so that any chemical which removes the one will remove the other.—*Truth.*

The Spanish $\frac{1}{4}$ c. de peseta

POSTAGE stamps at Villagarcia are so moderate in price that for the convenience of the lower classes they are being sold at forty a penny. The only difficulty is that they cover a letter so completely that if it is desired to put on the address, a second letter has to be posted to hold the remainder of the stamps.

Globe.

A Stamp for Reply

"ONE of the minor problems of life," the *Daily Chronicle* remarks, "is how to enclose stamps for reply when sending a letter abroad." . . . "Doubtless," adds the same newspaper, "there will come a time—even before Mr. H. G. Wells's World State is in being—when an international series of postage stamps will be agreed upon, as well as an international coinage. But in the meantime the Dutch Government, we are told, has determined to solve the problem by procuring the stamps of all countries, and putting them on sale in the post offices. This is an example that might well be followed by other countries."

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1,500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1,500 different Stamps form a splendid start for anyone. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection; but it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and Registered.

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GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Stamp Bourse

OF course every stamp collector has heard of the Stamp Bourse in Paris, where stamp collectors and stamp dealers meet on common ground in a public thoroughfare under the trees to swap and buy. It has survived the test of years, and seems to be regularly frequented. But we have no such thing in our great village of London, though I am in hopes that we may have our Stamp Bourse some day yet, but it will not be under the trees, for our climate is not just the thing for that. It will have to be in a room in some café, or other place of public resort.

A Boston Stamp Bourse

Meanwhile, they are going to try the experiment of a Stamp Bourse in Boston, U.S. The Boston Stamp Bourse is not to be on the free-and-easy-open-to-all-comers terms, after the style of the Paris model, but a close preserve, open only to the members of the Boston Philatelic Society.

How far the Bourse idea can be grafted on to the ordinary Philatelic Society remains to be seen. It should be a success, for at present there is a lot of good material in the hands of all the old collectors waiting circulation. When I think of the immense stocks of duplicates that I know of lying idle, I cannot help thinking it a great pity that some good soul does not come forward and popularise the business of exchanging in our Societies.

Stamp Bourse Rules

Anyway, here are the Rules of the Boston experiment. They may serve as the groundwork for an English attempt in the same direction:—

- 1.—All stamps to be sold at the Bourse must be properly mounted with removable hinges on Bourse sheets, and offered for sale by the Superintendent of Sales or his assistants.
- 2.—Bourse sheets to hold twenty stamps can be procured, by members only, of the Superintendent of Sales at a cost of one cent per sheet.
- 3.—Each stamp must be marked in ink underneath, with its net price. It will add to the buyer's convenience and probably help sales if the catalogue number and catalogue price are also given.

In order that the stamps may be easily examined, they should be hinged near the top, and *must not overlap*.

- 4.—All stamps sold from these sheets are to be paid for when removed. The Superintendent or his assistants will stamp each space "Sold" when so removed.

- 5.—A commission of five per cent. will be charged to the owner on all stamps sold at this Bourse.

The privilege of selling at this Bourse is for members only. Visitors as well as members may purchase at these sales.

The Superintendent shall pay to the Society all moneys received for Bourse sheets and all commissions received from sales at the Stamp Bourse.

- 6.—On each sheet submitted for sale will be placed by the Superintendent the Bourse number of the member. Member's name will not be permitted to appear on Bourse sheets.

The owner will place the net selling value of each sheet in the right-hand upper corner.

- 7.—Mounted sheets ready for the Sale are to be left with the Superintendent on or before 2 p.m. of the day of Society meeting.

Pleasant Preliminary Gatherings

SURELY a well organised attempt to bring members together for a preliminary hour for exchange purposes should be a success.

Before all things there must be an accepted basis for exchanging, and that basis will have to be the Gibbons Catalogue, for the simple reason that it rules prices. Accept a basis, and the rest is a simple business. Value for value, regardless of country; nothing could be simpler.

But I am equally certain that there can be no satisfactory exchanging so long as every member is a law unto himself as to the individual value of his individual stamps. So long as a collector is free to trot out his duplicates as all swans, and expect his fellows to offer theirs as all geese, there will be very little business done. Let the value in every case be settled by Gibbons', hard and fast, and no discounts or other disturbances of values, and it will be plain sailing and we can go ahead.

Once properly set going there is not a doubt that exchanging, pure and simple, and barring all cash transactions, should furnish a very powerful added attraction for our regular philatelic gatherings. Let us do away with the delicacy of cash transactions amongst friends, and get straight to the real business of stamps for stamps.

Mutual Help

Besides, when collectors get to the real unadulterated work of sharing each other's duplicates by exchanging, they will soon be found helping each other in opening up and laying out new countries. For instance, if I, in exchanging duplicates with a fellow-member, found he wanted many of my duplicates but had nothing to help me in my countries, I should be tempted by the duplicates of his speciality to make a start, with a few hints from him, along his road, and in this way we should probably often make recruits for our favourite countries. A few hints helped with a few duplicates will do a great deal.

English as She is Spoke

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, Ltd., have shown me the following choice bit of "English as she is spoke" when offering Prussian official stamps for judicious manipulation:—

By this I want to tell you and believe it will have a great interest for you, that the whole rest of the German post office stamps of the Royal Prussian treasury from 1903 J received to realise them. The values 2. 3. 5. 10. 20. 25. 40. 50. Pf. at all unused. We offer this set stamps if you take

| 100,000 sets for the price of 30 Pf. the set | | | |
|--|---|---|--------|
| 50,000 | " | " | 35 " " |
| 25,000 | " | " | 37 " " |
| 10,000 | " | " | 39 " " |
| 5,000 | " | " | 40 " " |
| 1,000 | " | " | 50 " " |

with the remark that we oblige us to you not to deliver to any other firm in England and his colonies as to yourself if you take 100,000 sets.

"Expecting your answer by return of post.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



VICTORIA MEETS JOHN

CHAPTER XIV

Which clearly demonstrates that the false and the true are occasionally very much alike

WHEN Betty saw that William Keniss had no intention of coming near her, she expressly forbade Victoria to visit her friend John. This was a great trouble to the excellent young person, who was in deadly fear lest her beloved should forget her, whenever she was compelled to spend even two days without recalling herself to his memory. However, she had no intention of disobeying her mistress, and contented herself with prowling for long hours in the neighbourhood of the Terminus Hotel in the hope of catching a glimpse, even in the far distance, of him to whom she was forbidden to speak. But she never even saw so much as his nose, which caused a fit of depression and sadness which she tried in vain to conceal.

Miss Scott, as we have already heard, spent her time in becoming better acquainted with Paris. But her walks were no hindrance to her reflections, and, on the very day on which John was such an unlucky victim of the vagaries of the atmosphere, it occurred to her how very careless she had been in not having Mr. Keniss's valet shadowed also, and she determined to repair the error without delay.

"Victoria," she said, "I want you to go to M. Picquiseau's for me; ask him for two fresh detectives, and go with them yourself to the Terminus Hotel. Wait there till John appears and point him out to them, explaining that I wish for information concerning his movements, the same as those of his master. Go at once."

Though the commission was a somewhat delicate one, Victoria made no objection, for she would at least see the friend whose long absence was torturing her. As she took up her position in the Rue Saint-Lazare, accompanied by the two spies, John arrived from the Rue du Havre looking sullen and weary, for he had just escaped out of the hands of the police, and felt as much ashamed as a fox whose tricks had been discovered; he was furious too at having lost his forged stamp.

He was not more than a few steps away when Victoria caught sight of him.

"There he is!" she exclaimed. "Do you see him?"

John took it all in, murmured "Ah! I am caught, am I?" and passed on quickly and with dignity towards the hotel.

To see him there, so near, alone, free but disdainful, was too much for the tender Victoria. She followed him, and, in a voice trembling with emotion, asked—

"What! Mr. John, you will not even say 'Good day'?"

"Leave me," he returned drily. "You are acting a most shameful part."

Then Victoria, seeing she was discovered, began an eloquent speech, which John answered with a very forcible one. "It was abominable," he said, "to spy on people and to penetrate into their secret life. It was just like a woman's treachery to weave such plots and to so basely betray the sacred laws of friendship!"

"But it is not I; it is Miss Betty," groaned Victoria in deepest desolation.

"You are her accomplice."

"No, no, John, I swear I am not. I carry out her orders, but I am not responsible for them, you know."

"Oh, very well," cried the fiery American. "If you are not responsible, you can just tell your mistress that she makes a great mistake if she thinks she can stop us in such a way as that from carrying out our plans."

"But then——"

"Do you suppose we mind being shadowed? We shall just stop in Paris and enjoy ourselves till Miss Scott is tired of her absurd little game."

"Miss Betty has plenty of perseverance——"

"Nevertheless she can't have us followed all our lives."

"I suppose not."

"Then we shall just wait patiently till she gives up spying upon us, and only then, you understand, shall we take steps to procure the Brahmapootra stamp."

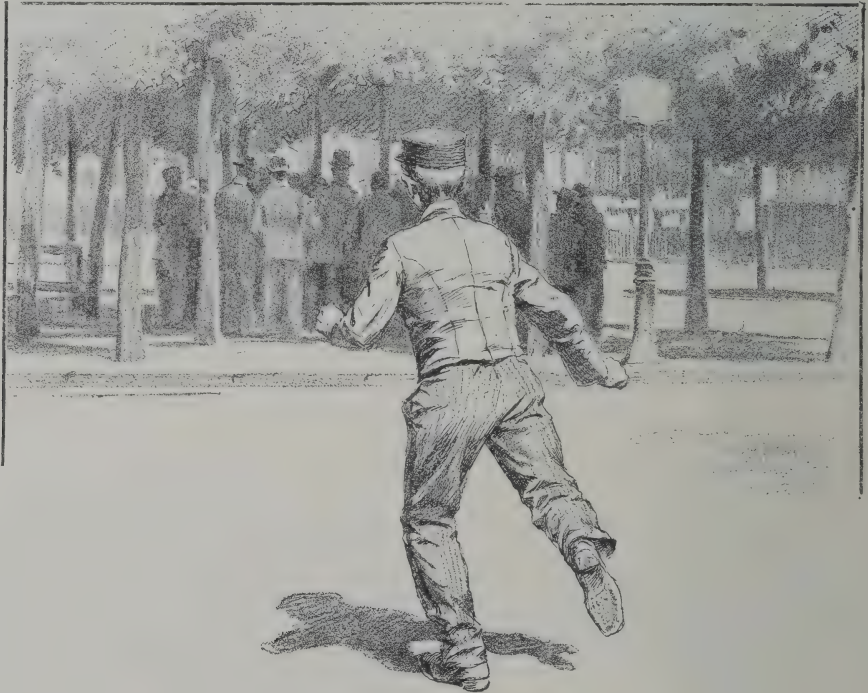
At length, after interminable protestations from Victoria, John seemed to calm down a little.

stamping their feet on the pavement the other side of the street.

"Come, come," he cried; "look at me well so that you may know me again." And he smiled superbly and disdainfully to show that he had no intention of being their dupe, but meant to give them as much trouble as possible.

Victoria returned to the Hotel Bristol in a deep reverie, and the rest of the day passed without any further incident. The next day, Thursday, the 14th of May, after breakfast, Betty informed Victoria she would not need her that day as she intended visiting Versailles. No sooner had she started than the maid, turning over the leaves of the *Paris Guide*, hastily sought and found the address of the United States Legation, 63, Rue Pierre-Charron.

"They will tell me there what formalities Americans



A LAD CAME RUNNING UP TO THE GROUP

"Well, ungrateful man," said Victoria sweetly, "since I have given you so much trouble, I'll do my best to serve you now."

"Oh, I dare say!" said he sceptically.

"I will, indeed. And look here, as we shall be in Paris for some time yet, shall I arrange about our wedding?"

At these words John started back.

"You've chosen a nice time to speak of that," he cried.

But poor Victoria begged so earnestly that, tired out, he ended by saying—

"You can do whatever you please."

They parted with these words, she delighted at having received *carte blanche*, and he satisfied at having treated her harshly, and so made her ready to do anything he might wish in the future.

John continued on his way to the Terminus Hotel, but before entering he turned for the last time to the two spies, henceforth attached to his person, who were

have to go through when they want to get married in France," she thought.

So she called a fiacre and was driven there immediately. But the concierge, to whom she made known her wishes, returned banteringly—

"What! do you want people to work just as usual on fête days? It's all shut up, my dear." And, as Victoria opened her eyes very wide, he continued, "Don't you know it's Ascension Day? You must come again some other time."

Sadly discomfited, the good girl dismissed her fiacre and returned on foot through the Champs-Élysées, the sweetest dreams and the most melancholy thoughts striving in her mind for mastery. When she reached the corner of the Avenue Marigny her attention was attracted to a group of people, of all ages and conditions, in animated discussion round a young man, whom, to her surprise, she recognised as William Keniss. He was examining books and albums filled with stamps, which one and another handed to him in

the hope that he would either buy some or give his opinion concerning doubtful copies. For Victoria had arrived at the Stamp Bourse, to which William had strolled out of curiosity.

It was not in this pretty, shady corner of the Champs-Élysées that the Stamp Bourse was originally held. The original one saw the light in the year 1860 in the garden of the Tuileries, at the foot of the statue of Diana.

Though the first postage stamps date from 1840, collectors had twenty years later only been heard of for some three or four years. But philately began to make rapid strides, and, in 1859, there were already three dealers established in Paris. From that time the number of philatelists rapidly increased, and the day came when they assembled in such numbers in the Tuileries Gardens that the police were obliged to interfere and beg them to remove to the Champs-Élysées, at the corner of the Avenue Gabriel and the Avenue Marigny, at which place their Bourse grew and developed until the year 1880. In that year a fresh interruption by the police took place. But the philatelists, usually so calm, were absolutely furious at having their habits and arrangements upset, and showed but little disposition to comply with the orders given them. Some among them had then, of course, to go to the police station and explain their conduct. Force was on the side of the law, and the little market was compelled to emigrate to the spot on which it was now discovered by Victoria.

At the beginning the "Stamp Bourse" was only attended by the pupils of the schools and colleges, who met thus to make exchanges among themselves without it costing them anything. The meetings then only took place on Sundays, but in 1887 Thursdays were added by general demand. Little by little the circle enlarged, and, instead of schoolboys only, all collectors were drawn to the Bourse in the hope of some godsend or advantageous bargain. But one rarely comes across a good thing on the Stamp Bourse, for it is caught up as soon as it appears by one of the buyers sent for that purpose by the big stamp dealers

of the capital. The Stamp King, however, to please the lads who offered him their merchandise, had bought a few at ridiculously high prices, so he was besieged on all sides by vendors, little and big, who took him for a beginner in philately, and shamelessly emulated each other in trying to take advantage of him.

"Is that you, Victoria?" he said, a little piqued on beholding his friend's maid; for it occurred to him that Miss Scott, not content with having him followed by two spies, had also set her faithful companion to watch him. "How did you come here, and what are you doing?"

"I came by the merest chance," said Victoria. "I had just been out for a walk, and, returning along the Champs-Élysées, I saw this crowd and came to see what was going on; so here I am."

The Stamp King had exchanged a few more careless words with Victoria, when suddenly there was a great disturbance in the Bourse.

"Look, look!" cried a lad who came running between the groups.

"What is it?" said another.

"A quite new stamp."

"Let us look at it!"

"Do you know what it is?"

"No. Don't you?"

"No. I found it in the Rue Tronchet."

The little lad, for fear someone should steal his stamp, which had already passed through about a dozen different hands, hastened to repurchase himself of it. William Keniss and Victoria, who had seen the boy run up, were standing close to him when he said, "It is certainly an Indian stamp," and with one accord they stopped talking, and as the boy, surrounded by several of his comrades, sat down on a bench a few yards away to consult a catalogue someone had lent him, they each drew near with an assumption of such perfect indifference that neither suspected the other of being drawn by a similar thought. But suddenly a cry escaped them both at the same moment—

"The Brahmopootra stamp!"

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Victorian Letter

MELBOURNE, May 15th, 1905.

A Find of New Zealands

VERY little has happened here in philatelic matters since I last wrote, the only thing of any importance being a find of a block of twenty-four unused 6d. New Zealand, 1864 issue, perforated. These, when discovered, had a thick coating of black dirt on the back of them, which the finder of the stamps proceeded to wash off, when he was agreeably surprised to find the stamps were watermark N.Z.

The Famous "Hill" Collection

I had a peep at one of the volumes of the famous "Hill" Collection of Victorian stamps a few weeks back, and was surprised at the good things that were in it. Every stamp is a picked clean copy, lightly postmarked. The collection is practically complete, as it contains every known stamp that has been issued in Victoria, excepting one or two of the rarest watermarks, such as the 6d. Laureated, watermark double line 2, and 2d. Emblem, watermark 6. It is one of those good old collections that were formed in the early days, so few of which now remain in the colony, nearly all having left these shores for a permanent resting-place in the Old World. It is to be hoped

that Mr. Hill will not be tempted to part with it, as he will never again be able to get together such a fine lot of Victorian stamps. The collection contains several specimens of the same stamp, and abounds in shades, many of which are seldom met with. I saw many things in it I coveted, such as a used pair of "Too Late" stamps, a half-page of the various errors of transfer of the lithographed 2d., Queen on Throne, and a fine lot of the 2d., half-length, fine background and border, in a very rich colour.

The Tasmanian 1½d. Provisional

I am informed that the object of issuing the 1½d. stamp in Tasmania was for use on pictorial post cards when posted to the Old World. If one each of the 1d. and ½d. pictorial issue were used on the cards, very little room would be left for the address, so to get over the difficulty a smaller stamp was selected and surcharged 1½d. to meet the rate of postage on the cards.

Mr. Hausburg's Visit

Amongst the visitors to Melbourne last month was Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, a prominent English philatelist and member of the London Philatelic Society. I had a long chat with him on philatelic matters, and found that he had given much study to the stamps of the Australian colonies. I was enabled to learn much valuable information from him, especially regarding

the manner in which the various shades of the different stamps are determined by English collectors. Mr. Hausburg stayed in Melbourne only six days, during which time he saw all the principal collections of stamps here, including the "Hill" Collection and the fine unused collection of Victorians belonging to Mr. Cohen, who very kindly sent it down from Bendigo, a distance of 100 miles, for him to look through. Mr. Hausburg was entertained to dinner at the German Club by the members of the Philatelic Society of Victoria. He appeared to thoroughly enjoy his visit here, and seemed never tired of looking through collections. He also paid a visit to the Government Printing Office, and was shown the various early plates that were used to print the stamps issued in the early days, and many other things of interest, including the original hand rouletting machine that was used on the first issues of Victoria. Visits from collectors like Mr. Hausburg are indeed a treat to Australian philatelists, and some day we hope to be honoured with a visit from Mr. Phillips or Mr. Castle or some of the

other great philatelists. Mr. Hausburg was of opinion that Australian collectors were much too modest, both regarding their collections and their opinions regarding Australian stamps. The reason for this is easy to see, as we in Australia have always considered that the collections of the Old World, judging from the descriptions we have read of them, were far and away superior to anything out here, and that from the close study given to Australian stamps by English philatelists, their opinions were necessarily far above any that could be given here.

Victoria, 1863-4, Laureated 4d., wmk. 8

A few weeks back I saw a specimen of the 4d. Victoria Laureated 1863-4 issue, which completely sets at rest the question if this stamp was ever issued on paper watermark 8. The specimen in question was very clearly watermarked, the whole of the figure 8 showing in the centre of the stamp.

CHARLES B. DONNE.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Herts Philatelic Society

President: H. Jennings White.

Secretary: H. A. Slade, "Ingleside," St. Albans.

Meeting: Anderton's Hotel. Third Tuesday.

THE following circular, signed by the Hon. Sec., is being sent to the members:—

As matters of considerable importance were discussed and carried at the Annual Meeting on May 17th, and as the Annual Report will not be issued before September, I have thought that a brief summary of what took place might be of interest to you in case you were not present.

As Mr. H. Jennings-White and Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield, through inability to take such an active interest in the Society as they could desire, had signified their intention of resigning the offices of Hon. President and Hon. Vice-President respectively, a favourable opportunity arose of reorganising the higher offices of the Executive. It was therefore determined that a President and Vice-President who could attend the meetings with regularity, and who could devote considerable time to current proceedings, should be elected, and that such appointments should not be regarded as permanent, but rather as elective at each Annual Meeting.

With these ends in view, Messrs. Franz Reichenheim and H. L. Hayman were unanimously chosen as President and Vice-President respectively for next session. Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield, in recognition of his past valuable services, was placed among the Hon. Vice-Presidents, and Mr. H. Jennings-White, at his special request, became an ordinary member of the Society.

In consequence of indifferent health which often prevented him from attending the meetings, Mr. George Haynes was regretfully relieved of the onerous duties of Hon. Librarian. The post was conferred on Mr. J. C. Sidebotham, who volunteered his services, and whose residence at 28, Great Ormond Street, W.C., is within easy distance of our new rooms at No. 4, Southampton Row, W.C. Books and papers can henceforth be brought to the meetings for reference with despatch and convenience. I may mention that the library has lately been largely increased, and I hope that more donations of useful books will be forthcoming, and that more applications for books will be made by members than has hitherto been the case. A complete list of the books in the library will be found in the Annual Report.

Mr. A. G. Wane (Manager of Barclay and Co.'s Bank at New Barnet, and Trustee to the Exhibition Fund) was elected Hon. Auditor in place of Mr. William Archibald Boyes, who was elected a member of the Committee.

The members were pleased to ask me to retain my position as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, which I had much pleasure in doing.

It was proposed and carried that a Permanent Collection—used and unused, adhesives only—be formed by the Society, and that it be placed in Stanley Gibbons' Imperial Albums. The mounting and arranging of the stamps to be entrusted to a small Committee (to be appointed later), and a safe, if necessary, to be purchased for the custody of the albums. All duplicates to be disposed of, by sale or exchange, to the best advantage, and the collection to always be at the disposal of members for inspection or study. Names of donors to be published in the Annual Report.

By the members' assistance, this Collection should soon form a valuable and interesting asset of the Society, and any stamps you may care to send me for inclusion will promptly be acknowledged. Naturally, in beginning a general collection, the very common varieties will be useful, but whatever stamps are sent should be in fair condition.

I have pleasure in reporting a balance of about £40 in favour of the Society, which indicates a prosperous condition of affairs. As new members will share in the benefits accruing from this satisfactory balance, it has been resolved that new members joining on and after the 31st May, 1905, shall pay an entrance fee of 5s., the annual subscription remaining the same for new and old members.

Meetings during the session of 1905-6 will be held at No. 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on the third Tuesday in each month from October to May inclusive. As I should like to arrange next season's programme before the holiday season commences, I should be pleased if you will let me know at your earliest convenience whether you are prepared to give a display or to read a paper before the members. If so, kindly let me know what country you propose to exhibit, and what date would best suit you. I specially call upon the younger members to come forward and help in filling up the evenings.

These are the principal points touched upon at the Annual Meeting, and I trust they meet with your approval.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Egypt

PASSING over intervening countries of minor interest, we come to the land of the Pharaohs for our comparison of prices between the 1904 Catalogue and our advance sheets of the forthcoming Catalogue for 1905.

Egypt is a favourite country of issue from the investment point of view, for as the years roll by the temporary character of our occupation of the country is slowly, it may be, but surely nevertheless giving way to an eventual protectorate, accepted and acknowledged. Our recent agreement with France has further smoothed the way to a free hand. And when the day comes, as come it will, for the transference of Egypt from Part II. to Part I. of our Gibbons, I fancy those who go in for the stamps of Egypt to-day will have no cause to regret their choice.

Philatelically it is quite as attractive as it is financially.

In the new Catalogue there are many ups and downs in prices, so many that I must tabulate each series for comparison.

The first issue, 1866, is, of course, the most interesting. Note its steady rise in value from 1896 in unused copies:—

| | 1896 | 1897 | 1899 | 1900 | 1902 | 1903 | 1904 | 1905 |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 paras . | 2 0 | 2 6 | 2 6 | 3 6 | 3 6 | 3 0 | 2 0 | 3 0 |
| 10 paras . | 3 6 | 4 0 | 5 0 | 6 0 | 10 0 | 12 0 | 8 0 | 10 0 |
| 20 paras . | 3 6 | 4 0 | 6 0 | 6 0 | 7 6 | 10 0 | 8 0 | 10 0 |
| 1 piastre . | 2 6 | 2 0 | 2 0 | 2 0 | 2 6 | 2 6 | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 2 piastres . | 4 0 | 4 0 | 4 6 | 6 0 | 7 6 | 7 6 | 6 0 | 8 0 |
| 5 piastres . | 20 0 | 22 6 | 22 6 | 25 0 | 25 0 | 30 0 | 30 0 | 30 0 |
| 10 piastres . | 24 0 | 26 0 | 26 0 | 27 6 | 27 6 | 30 0 | 30 0 | 30 0 |

And it takes some searching to get fine mint copies, well centred, at the latest quotations.

Extending the comparison to unused and used, it will be seen that the best stamps of the series are just as good used as unused, and that they either maintain their price level or advance.



| | 1866 | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|-------------------------|------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 paras, grey . | | 2 0 | 2 0 | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 10 paras, brown . | | 8 0 | 8 0 | 10 0 | 10 0 |
| 20 paras, blue . | | 8 0 | 8 0 | 10 0 | 8 0 |
| 1 piastre, "red-lilac" | | 2 0 | 0 9 | 2 0 | 1 0 |
| 2 piastres, yellow . | | 6 0 | 6 0 | 8 0 | 6 0 |
| 5 piastres, rose . | | 30 0 | — | 30 0 | — |
| 10 piastres, slate-blue | | 30 0 | 30 0 | 30 0 | 30 0 |

There is also a general advance in the prices of the 1867 series. Here again nice, mint, fresh, unsoiled copies are by no means plentiful, and the prices, though they have been dropping in several cases for the last two Catalogues, should certainly be tempting. I recently searched a big dealer's large stock book of this issue in vain for a single tempting mint copy of any one of the values.



| | 1867 | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|--------------------------|------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 paras, orange-yellow . | | 2 0 | 0 6 | 1 6 | 0 4 |
| 10 paras, mauve, mauve . | | 1 3 | 1 6 | 2 0 | 1 6 |
| 20 paras, green, green . | | 2 6 | 0 9 | 2 0 | 1 0 |
| 1 piastre, rose . | | 0 6 | 0 1 | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 2 piastres, blue . | | 3 0 | 1 0 | 4 0 | 2 0 |
| 5 piastres, brown . | | 15 0 | 12 6 | 15 0 | 12 6 |

The 1872-5 series is probably the most attractive of all the early issues, for it is full of *tête-bêche* pairs, inverted centres, and widely varying shades at such low prices that the general collector is sorely tempted into specialising. The prices of the series are kept attractively low, and the stamps are worth securing at present quotations. They are too plentiful yet to justify any advance.



| | 1872-5 | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 paras, brown . | | 0 9 | 0 9 | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 10 paras, lilac . | | 0 4 | 0 4 | 0 3 | 0 4 |
| 20 paras, blue . | | 0 4 | 0 3 | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 1 piastre, red . | | 0 4 | 0 1 | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 2 piastres, yellow . | | 0 9 | 0 3 | 0 6 | 0 2 |
| 2½ piastres, purple . | | 1 0 | 0 9 | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 5 piastres, green . | | 2 0 | 2 0 | 1 6 | 2 0 |

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of Stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on Sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5,000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged; R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum

fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4,700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this Edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1,000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last Edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 3
Whole No. 28

15 JULY, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

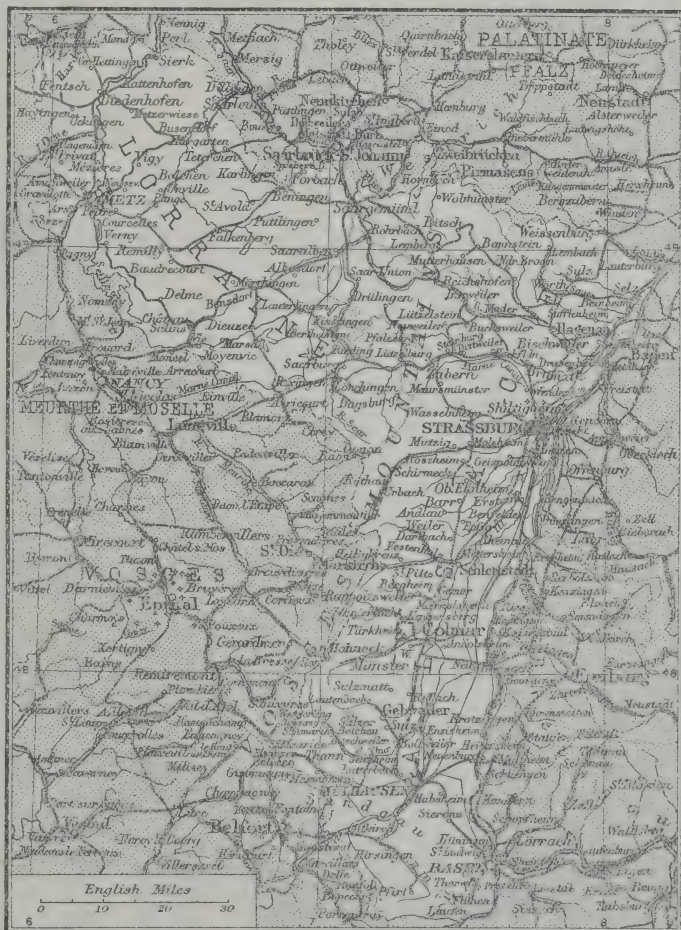
Alsace and Lorraine

SOME of the most interesting stamps of the world are those that mark the great struggles that have taken place between nations and peoples, and amongst these the quaint stamps of Alsace and Lorraine, issued by the German Army of Occupation during the great Franco-German War of 1870, are by no means the least interesting.

These little souvenirs of a great struggle for life between two of the greatest European Powers are sometimes classed as stamps issued for the use of the German Army, just as our Indian stamps, overprinted C.E.F., were intended for the use of our army in China, sent to relieve the legations.

But that is a mistake.

They were designed for an altogether different purpose. As the Germans invaded France, they took sole possession of the post and telegraph services, and for the convenience



Copyright

J. Bacheler, Editeur

of their administration they designed and issued the so-called Alsace and Lorraine postage stamps. As will be seen from our illustration, those stamps in no way indicated the march of a triumphant army. They bore no sign of their German origin. The only words printed on them were in French. And besides those two words, POSTES and CENTIMES, there was only the numeral of value. Nothing could be more simple. They quietly and effectually took the place of the previously current French stamps. They were issued solely to take the place of those stamps, and were not used for the military correspondence, which was all forwarded by the military authorities.

They were, of course, first used in Alsace and Lorraine, which were the first portions of French territory to come under the administration of the invading German army, but Mr. Westoby tells us that they were subsequently employed as far as Le Mans on the west, and Amiens on the north. They were, in fact, used in those parts of France occupied by the German Army in the war of 1870-1, and afterwards provisionally in the annexed provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, until superseded by the issues for the German Empire in 1872.

Still, they will always be known as the stamps of Alsace and Lorraine, for they originated in those provinces, and were mostly used there, though to be strictly correct they should be termed the stamps of the German Army of Occupation. Many years ago they were given a separate heading in our catalogues; now they are always included under the general heading of Germany.

Mr. Westoby tells us that they were manufactured at Berlin, and as there was urgent need of them, "it was necessary to resort to some simple design, which, at the same time, should not be capable of being imitated. The stamps of the North German Confederation, then in use in Prussia, were underprinted with a network of fine-lined curves, which, being printed with a preparation of lead, was not visible except when exposed to fumes which produced oxidation. It was resolved to print the same network in colour upon the sheets for the new stamps, and to

overprint a design in type in similar colour." The design, as will be seen, was confined to the numerals of values, and the word POSTES above and CENTIMES below. The network in the ordinary issue points upwards, but it is found printed with the points downwards, owing to the sheets having been put through the machine the wrong way up. Hence, there are what is termed two sets, one with the normal printing, and the other with the network inverted. As will be seen from the appended list, the inverted network is much the scarcer of the two. The general collector will wisely confine himself to the normal set, and leave varieties to the specialist.

1870. The stamps were issued in September, 1870. There were seven values in all, as follows:—



WITH POINTS OF NETWORK UPWARDS.

| | Unused. | | Used. | |
|-------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 c., olive-green | 0 | 9 | 5 | 0 |
| 2 c., brown | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 4 c., grey | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 5 c., green | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 10 c., bistre | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| 20 c., blue | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 25 c., brown | 2 | 6 | 2 | 0 |

It will be noted from this list of values that cancelled copies are very highly prized by collectors. Some make a feature of getting all the obtainable dated cancellations showing the various towns and districts in France in which the stamps were used, and naturally those with the postmarks of places outside Alsace and Lorraine are particularly sought after. As most of the cancellation was done with dated postmarks, a collection of neatly cancelled specimens of these historical stamps is much prized by specialists. Though issued so long ago as 1870, the prices of some of the values are still within the scope of the small collector. But they are every year getting scarcer.

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 20.)

Stamps without a Name (continued)

IN the war between France and Germany in 1870, the Germans, as every school-boy knows, took the offensive and invaded France. The post offices were taken over by the invaders, and a postal service of their own substituted for that which existed under the French régime. The service was mainly for the use of the people whose territory was now in the possession of German troops. A series of postage stamps in French currency was provided. These stamps were first used in Alsace and Lorraine, and after the war they continued in use in these provinces until they were superseded by the issues of the German Empire. Hence the stamps are commonly catalogued under the heading of Alsace and Lorraine.

The design of the stamps was as simple as the need for them was urgent. A network of fine-lined curves was overprinted with a large numeral in the centre and with POSTES above and CENTIMES below. There were seven values in all. An official imitation of all the values was made in 1885. These imitations may be distinguished from the originals by the position of the letter P in POSTES. Its distance from the left border is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in the originals, whereas in the imitations it is from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. distant.

ALSACE AND LORRAINE.



1870.

The 10 pfennig and higher values of the 1889 issue of the German Empire have already been described under our second heading. The 3 and 5 pfennig of that issue have a large numeral of value in the centre, with PFENNIG underneath the numeral, and REICHSPOST on a tablet at the base of the stamp. The following is an illustration of the 5 pfennig.

GERMAN EMPIRE.



1889.

In 1868 a series was issued for use in the Russian Levant, in which a very ornamental numeral formed the central design. KOP was inscribed underneath, and on the oval band surrounding the numeral appeared in Russian the inscription, "Oriental Correspondence." There were four values in all. Eight years after, an alteration was made in the rate of postage on letters, and the 10 kopecks was surcharged with a large numeral 8. In 1879 the rate was further reduced to 7 kopecks, and a stumpy "7" appeared as the corresponding surcharge.

RUSSIAN LEVANT.



1868.

(d) Written Characters

There are a few issues in which the central design, and in some cases all the design, is composed of written or printed characters. Such a design is very common in the stamps of the native states of India. We give examples of those which beginners generally find difficult to locate. Alwar for a quarter of a century was

ALWAR.



1877.

faithful to its dagger and quaint native inscription. The stamps of Alwar became obsolete in 1902.

Bhopal divided its allegiance between two designs. The first of these consisted of a double-framed octagon enclosed in a square. In the frame of the octagon was inscribed H.H. NAWAB SHAH JAHAN BEGAM. The centre was blank. The second design was that of an upright oval, around which appeared the same inscription, which enclosed a figure not unlike a child's first attempt at drawing a tree. Variations of these designs appeared at intervals. All may be recognised by means of the two illustrations given below.

BHOPAL.



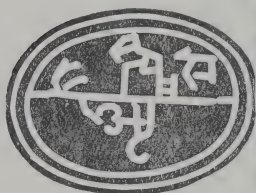
1877.



1878-9.

Bhor and Bundi are responsible for some of the crudest attempts at stamp production which might easily be sup-

BHOR.



1879.

BUNDI.



1894.

posed to date from the days before the Flood. They are, however, of recent date. The stamps of Bhor date from 1879, and have been obsolete for some years past. Bundi began its career as a stamp-issuing country as late as 1894, and closed its philatelic history in 1902.

The first issue of Dhar gives us another example of native work. There are three values, the $\frac{1}{2}$ pice, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, and 1 anna. Before issue they were overprinted with an oval handstamp in black.

DHAR.



1897.

Duttia went in for something a little more pretentious in the shape of an image of the god Buddha as a central design. The figure is in the barest outline, as will be seen from the accompanying illustration.

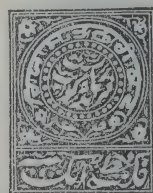
DUTTIA.



1898.

Faridkot seems to have laboured under the impression that a stamp is nothing unless it is well covered. An illustration of the 1 paisa is appended.

FARIDKOT.



1879-86.

(To be continued.)

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

BY-PATHS OF PHILATELY

PICTURE STAMPS AND METHODS OF ARRANGEMENT

By H. R. OLDFIELD

(Continued from page 22.)

3. Pictures of Public Buildings and Monuments

FOR the arrangement of this class I have returned to the principle of the country of issue, but instead of one continuous alphabetical sequence I have separated the countries into the five continental divisions, which seems more suitable for these designs. A number of unnecessary stamps will be found among them, but to my mind the group possesses nevertheless considerable interest, and may afford pleasure to many, if not to the stricter and more orthodox collectors.

This class contains some beautiful examples of engraving, more especially as regards stamps issued by Uruguay in 1895-6 and in 1899.



1895. 3 pesos.



1899. 5 mils.

Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Salvador have each produced interesting and well-executed designs.

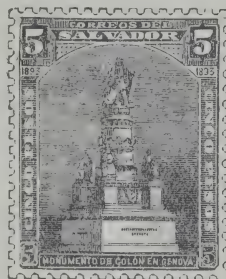
Costa Rica.—1901. Statue of Juan Santa-Maria.



Guatemala.—1902. Statue of J. Rufino Barrios.



Salvador.—1893. Monument to Columbus.



In contrast to these it is interesting to refer to the San Marino issue of 1894—glaring, crude, and coarse.

4. Pictures of Town Life

This class was intended to counterbalance Pictures of Country Life, but I shall probably amalgamate it with Class 3, and adopt the same principle of division.

5. Pictures of Animals

Here there is no question of geographical division, and no great interest in dates, save that some specimens were issued much earlier than might be supposed.

I take four subdivisions—

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Birds, | Fishes, and |
| Beasts, | Miscellaneous. |

These stamps, again, are perhaps more interesting to the Philistine than to the philatelist, but, all the same, they have their qualities, and are by no means to be despised.

They illustrate, in conjunction with those of the succeeding class, the ever-changing interest which is to be found in Picture Stamps, and which will render their collection so attractive. An entirely different

system of arrangement from those of the preceding classes becomes necessary.

Each of the different classes is complete in itself. You can confine your attention to one, feeling that when you have secured all the copies necessary to illustrate your subject you possess a collection which is sufficient to satisfy the collecting instinct, and which you can retain and produce with pleasure and pride. When eventually you direct your attention to some other class you do not find yourself compelled to follow the same system of classification, but, on the contrary, the subject not only permits, but requires entirely different treatment to bring out its salient points and to ensure a result satisfactory and intelligible to yourself and to those to whom you show your collection.

The arrangement of the stamps under the various subheads should have regard to their kind, and then either according to dates or countries, as may be preferred. For instance, among the birds may be noted—

Eagles, to be found in a large number of countries, *e.g.* :—

Venezuela.—1863.



Japan.—1875



Bolivia.—1866. Eagle or Condor.



Parrot or Quetzal in Guatemala. *Peacocks* in Borneo, Labuan, and Japan. *Wild Goose* in China. *Lyre Bird* in New South Wales, and *Swan* in Western Australia.

Guatemala.—1879.



Borneo.—1894.



China.—1897.



(To be continued.)

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Including a full Descriptive Catalogue, and illustrated with several thousand full-sized reproductions of the stamps. In one volume, 622 pages. Size of each page, 10×13 inches. Printed on one side of the paper only, catalogue and illustrations on the left, and spaces to correspond on the right-hand pages. All minor varieties of perforation, watermark, and type are omitted, and only such varieties are included as can be distinguished by the young philatelist. Space has been provided for some 18,000 stamps, and provision made for new issues by the insertion of numerous blank pages. Post-free, 13s. 4d.

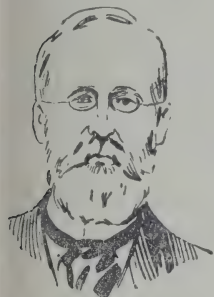
Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Canadian Postmaster-General

SIR WILLIAM MULOCK, K.C.M.G., Postmaster-General of Canada, is now in England, his particular mission at this time being to confer with the Government respecting special cable arrangements in which the Imperial and Colonial Governments are interested.



SIR W. H. MULOCK

Sir William is best known in this country as being the one to whom special credit is due for securing the adoption of the Imperial penny postage policy a few years ago. He has made a reputation in Canada as an administrator within the last few years such as falls to the lot of few public men.

When Sir Wilfrid Laurier formed his Cabinet in 1896, the then Mr. Mulock became Postmaster-General. He took hold of the department, in which there was a deficit of about £120,000, and in a few years succeeded in effecting such a change in the administration of the department that the difference between the revenue and the expenditure showed a surplus of over £100,000.

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Proposed New Zealand Show Labels

MR. C. LLOYD BLACK, of Christchurch, New Zealand, kindly sends me the following cutting from a New Zealand newspaper:—

Mr. Charters moved, Mr. Grierson seconded, and it was agreed: That the Government be requested to consider the advisability of issuing a series of stamps commemorative of the Exhibition, to be sold only during the period the Exhibition was open.

Mr. Black further informs me that one of the persons mentioned in this precious item of news is an "advanced collector." If so, he should be shunned by his fellow-collectors.

I hope that this shameless attempt to drag New Zealand postal issues into the mud and mire of Show Label Swindles will forthwith be indignantly rejected by the New Zealand postal authorities.

If it be carried out it will disgust collectors of New Zealand stamps, depopularise the modern issues, and eventually seriously lessen the revenue from the sale of New Zealand stamps to collectors. Indeed, we shall begin to believe that, after all, there was only too much truth in Mr. Castle's strictures on the postal administration of the colony.

New Norwegians

On page 10 I stated that I did not foresee any necessity for any wholesale changes in the stamps of Norway as the result of the separation of Norway and Sweden, for only the two high values bore a portrait of King Oscar.

And I now learn that those portrait stamps will be withdrawn and provisionals provided by surcharging a large remainder stock of the old 2 skilling stamps of the 1867-8 series. The provisional values to be surcharged on the 2 sk. are kr. 1.00, kr. 1.50, and kr. 2.00.

The large stock of this old value remaining in hand, some 700,000, has led to the selection of this particular stamp for provisional use.

Specialists list two shades of the 2 sk., one orange, catalogued at 1s. 6d. unused, and the other, the common stamp, orange-yellow, catalogued at 3d. unused, and they will be on the look out for the rarer shade amongst the forthcoming provisionals.

"Monthly Journal" Fifteenth Volume

PHILATELIC journals are said to resemble mushrooms—they are up to-day and gone to-morrow. That may be true of a lot of small fry, but I question very much if there is any branch of publishing that can boast of longer-lived periodicals than we can in philatelic literature.

The current number for the month of June completes the fifteenth yearly volume of the *Monthly Journal*, and all under the kindly and cultured editorship of Major Evans.

But the *Monthly Journal* shelf of fifteen annual volumes is quite a new issue compared to the *Philatelic Record*, now in its twenty-seventh annual volume. And even

the *Record* is eclipsed by the *American Journal of Philately*, which is now in its eighteenth volume of a second series.

Stamp Auctions

SOME good folks imagine that auctions are an innovation of the last few years, but that is far from being the case. Here, for instance, is an item under the head of Auction Sales from the first volume of the second series of the *American Journal of Philately*, published in 1888, nearly twenty years ago.

Within the past few years, a very popular method of selling fine collections of stamps and coins has been by public auction, where the collectors from all parts of the world are brought into competition with one another. In this way the enormous sum of two hundred thousand dollars' worth of stamps and coins have been sold within the past ten years, and the constantly growing popularity of these auction sales warrants the prediction, that before ten years more have passed, the annual sales of collections by this method will exceed fifty thousand dollars.

An annual sale reaching fifty thousand dollars = £10,000, would be an amusing estimate of the combined total of the firms that ply the philatelic hammer today. It would be considered a very poor season indeed for any one of our stamp auctioneers, and the combined total would probably turn the dollars of the fifty thousand into pounds sterling.

General Collecting

WE all of us who have collected for many years have our own ideas as to the limitations which should separate the general collector from the specialist, but the hard and fast and accepted line of demarcation has yet to be determined. Meanwhile here are the limitations which Dr. Marx, a leading light in the International Phila-

telic Union and a philatelist of many years' experience, has, according to the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, set down for himself as a general collector. He excludes:—

- 1.—All differences of watermark or perforation, unless they constitute (a) a different issue, (b) a genuine error.
- 2.—All printers' waste or errors, unless the latter occur regularly in all sheets of the plate.
- 3.—All "minor" varieties.
- 4.—All overprints that do not alter the face value.
- 5.—All commemorative and speculative issues.
- 6.—Fiscal stamps, unless bearing an overprint that converts them into postage stamps.
- 7.—Bisected stamps, with the same limitation as No. 6.
- 8.—Stamps issued for private account.
- 9.—Reprints, specimens, and forgeries, even if used through the post.
- 10.—Differences of postmark.
- 11.—Pairs, strips, and blocks, unless showing an error in the sheet or a variety undistinguishable in a single stamp.
- 12.—Plate numbers or other marks that do not distinguish different issues.

A very sound and sensible list of things that the general collector may wisely exclude, and I would add, all Unpaid, Officials, Special Delivery, and even Registereds.

Plate No. 126

THE Australian mare's nest, Great Britain, Plate No. 126, has arrived in this country for examination by the experts of the Philatelic Society of London.

Meantime the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* has received an enlarged photo of the wonderful discovery from its discoverer, Mr. W. A. Hall, and it feels sure "that every reader of the *S. C. F.* would agree with us in utterly declining to accept this stamp as being Plate 126."

And it was getting such a common variety in Australia too!

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1906

THE arrangements in connection with the International Exhibition have been in active progress, and the period for which the Royal Horticultural Society's Hall has been reserved is from Monday, the 21st of May, until Saturday, the 2nd of June, 1906. Doubtless two days will be required for mounting the exhibits and one or two days for unpacking, so that

the Exhibition will probably be open to the public for some nine or ten days from the 23rd of May. Invitations have been issued to various Philatelic Societies and to philatelists, and the General Committee is now in course of formation. The programme has been drafted, but before publication it will be submitted for approval to the General Committee.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Belgium.—We now illustrate the 10 c. of the new portrait series which we chronicled on page 9.



New portrait of King Leopold. Perf.

- 10 c., rose.
- 20 c., olive-green.
- 25 c., blue.
- 35 c., brown-lilac.

British Guiana.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 48 c. on multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

- 1 c., grey-green.
- 2 c., purple and black on red paper.
- 5 c., " " blue on blue "
- 12 c., " " violet.
- 24 c., " " green.
- 48 c., grey and chocolate.
- 60 c., green and carmine.

Corea.—A correspondent at Tokio sends the *Monthly Journal* the following cuttings from Japanese papers:—

"KOREAN POSTAL STAMPS AND CARDS.

"According to the *Tokyo Asahi*, the Korean Government has decided to abolish the Korean postal stamps and cards from the 1st inst., and use those of Japan in their place."

"To commemorate the amalgamation of the Korean communication system with the Japanese, our Government is now preparing to issue a number of specially-made postal stamps. The stamp will bear the Japanese and Korean Imperial crests wreathed with cherry blossoms, in addition to other emblems. In this connection it may be added that the same postal stamps and cards that are now in use in this country will in future be available in Korea."

He adds that "for some time ordinary (unsurcharged) Japanese stamps have been used for postage from Corea to Japan. At least letters from Seoul all bore Japanese stamps."

Danish West Indies.—The *Monthly Circular* chronicles the following series of stamps, for ordinary postage, in the new currency:—

- 5 bits, green.
- 10 " red.
- 20 " light green, centre grey.
- 25 " blue.
- 40 " red, centre grey.
- 50 " gold "

All are said to be without watermark, and perf. 13. The design is not described.

Gambia.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us that they have received the 2s. stamp on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

- 1d., carmine.
- 5d., grey and black.
- 7½d., green and carmine.
- 10d., olive-brown and carmine.
- 2s., dark slate and orange.

Kishengarh.—The *Philatelic Record* chronicles the addition of an 8 annas value to the series which we listed in our last volume, page 188.



No wmk. Perf.

- 1 anna, carmine
- 2 " red-brown.
- 3 " blue.
- 4 annas, orange.
- 5 " sepia.
- 6 " violet.
- 1 rupee, dark olive-green.
- 2 rupees, greenish yellow.
- 5 " deep purple-brown.

Leeward Islands.—Ewen's *Weekly* announces the first of the stamps of this group upon the multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.
3d., purple and black.

Norway.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write: "We have this day (29 June, 1905) received news from our Christiania correspondent that the three high values of the current set bearing the portrait of King Oscar are to be withdrawn from use to-morrow, and on July 1st provisionals will be issued, these consisting of the old 2 skilling stamps of the issue of 1867-8,



which will be surcharged as follows: 100,000 of kr. 1.00; 50,000 of kr. 1.50; and 50,000 of kr. 2.00." In a later communication they add: "We have some further information about the forthcoming provisionals, and that is, there might possibly be a second printing, as there are 700,000 remainders of the 2 skilling stamps in stock, but this would depend upon how soon the permanent issue of the three high values can be got ready."

Tibet.—The following note is from the *Manchester Guardian*:—

"We are losing no time in making up the leeway of centuries in our knowledge of Lhasa. Colonel

Waddell, who took part in the recent expedition, opened this afternoon at the ever-hospitable Crystal Palace a model of the chief temple in Lhasa, the entire fittings of which have been lent and arranged by himself. . . . There is shown here a set of four Indian stamps upon an envelope. The expedition took its own post office with it, and by one of the accidents that give stamps wild values the postmark spells Lhasa as 'Lahassa.' What makes the particular specimens shown doubly interesting is that they bear the date of August 3 last—the day on which the entry into Lhasa was made."

Transvaal.—*Ewen's Weekly* has received the 2½d. value on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.
 ½d., green, centre black.
 1d., carmine, centre black.
 2½d., ultramarine, centre black.
 6d., orange, centre black.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted: an English Postal Museum

In the new General Post Office which is now being built in Madrid, a certain part is to be set aside to accommodate the postal museum, which the authorities are thinking of founding. The projected postal museum will contain a section devoted to stamps. It is evident that the excellent example set by Germany will bear fruit in time. But the matter does not admit of delay, for delays prove to be costly when attempts are made suddenly to form collections. At present there must be in existence a quantity of articles connected with the early days of the postal system of England, and no doubt many most interesting things could be got together if their owners were asked to aid the Government in forming a postal museum on the lines of that which is such a striking monument of German methods in Berlin. If time is lost now, many of the things to which I refer will be destroyed or allowed to vanish. Of course, such things cannot be replaced, and if they could be collected under one roof, they would form for those coming after us a most interesting and instructive history of the early days of the postal system in England. The foundation of a postal museum offers a splendid field for the activity and energy of a public-spirited man, who has leisure and means for carrying out the idea.

The Monthly Journal.

That Stamp Wanted

A PRETTY Christmas story comes from Berlin. Emil Thomas, the well-known comedian and "joker," died there recently. He had borrowed £20 from the landlady of a wine-shop, and as he could not repay the loan, he managed to put off the good lady by renewed promises of eventual payment. Meanwhile he died. The landlady had told her bad luck to the little crowd of friends who met at her house, and they decided

to clear the name of their dead friend. Thus, on Christmas Eve the landlady received a money order for £20, and on the other side was written:—

"DEAR MADAM,—When I made such a sudden exit from life's stage I forgot entirely to send you the £20 which you were so kind as to lend to me; at the wish of my colleague, I now atone for the neglect. I wish you a good time down below. I had a good reception up here. Greetings from Heaven,—EMIL THOMAS." When the name was known, the landlady was asked for the stamp that franked the letter.

The Monthly Journal.

Russian Postal Methods

FOR many years past the commercial men of Berlin, and in fact of Germany generally, have complained that letters and samples sent to Russia get lost very frequently. Investigations proved clearly that there was no cause for complaint with regard to the German postal service, and the only remedy was to register everything of the least importance or value. However, the "mystery" has been solved at last. The manager of a paper manufactory near Moscow has declared that for many years he has bought waste paper officially from the Russian postal authorities, and that among the torn paper he has often found letters, huge quantities of samples, and even letters containing cheques two or three years old. The manager asked the Post Office officials how it was possible for such to be sold as waste paper, and he was informed that the "rubbish consisted simply of postal matter, which could not be forwarded, owing to lack of time." As the Berlin correspondent of the *Revue Française des Collectionneurs* remarks very justly: "This is the way in which the nation that has undertaken to 'civilise Asia' interprets its duties in regard to forwarding letters," etc.

The Monthly Journal.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THE LAD HESITATED

CHAPTER XIV (*continued*)

Which clearly demonstrates that the false and the true are occasionally very much alike

BOTH had instantly recognised the famous stamp of the Maharajah in the little paper which the lad, to facilitate his researches, had placed on his knee and was holding there with the tip of one finger. So they stared at each other in absolute stupefaction for a few seconds without a word.

Victoria was the first to break the silence.

"I will give you fifty francs for that stamp," she said to its possessor, who was still turning over the pages of the catalogue.

"Fifty francs!" cried he, starting up in surprise at the exorbitant and unexpected offer.

"Yes, indeed!" said Victoria. "And I'll pay you straight away."

The lad hesitated a second and his eye sought that of William Keniss, who was looking on at the scene with an imperturbable smile. The little fellow then looked at Victoria, who was trembling with anxiety to conclude the bargain.

"Well, will you let me have it?" she said.

"No," he returned resolutely.

"Why not?"

"Because I believe it is worth more than fifty francs."

All the people in the Stamp Bourse now began to assemble round these three actors to hear what was going on.

"Well, then," said Victoria, "if you won't let me have it for fifty francs I offer you sixty."

"No."

"Seventy!"

"No."

"Eighty!"

"No!"

"Ninety!"

"No!"

Great drops of perspiration rolled down Victoria's cheeks. The lad was sure to think that if anyone offered him a hundred francs for his stamp it must be worth a lot more, and would certainly ask an exaggerated price for it. Now Victoria had only a somewhat modest sum with her, and felt desperately that she would not be able to bid very high, and that, even could she do so, there was William Keniss, whose pocket-book was sure to be stuffed full of bank-notes, and who at the last moment, when she could go no further, would step in, in his usual calm way, and make a decisive bid.

So Victoria determined on a bold stroke.

"A hundred and fifty francs!" hoping that the lad, dazzled by the enormous sum, would immediately close with the offer. So her confusion can well be imagined when the little man of the world only replied again with an ironical smile—

"No."

She lost all hope from that moment and merely went on bidding mechanically—"A hundred and sixty! A

hundred and seventy! A hundred and ninety! Two hundred!"

Here she was compelled to stop, for that was about all the money she had with her, and, changing her tactics, she began in a honeyed tone—

"Look here, my child, what do you want for your stamp? Fix the price yourself and I am ready to pay it. Now then, how much?"

The little merchant lost no time in reflection.

"Five hundred francs!" he replied.

"So be it!" said Victoria quickly. "I accept your price of five hundred francs. Just come with me to the Hotel Bristol, in the Place Vendôme, and I will give you that sum in exchange for the stamp."

"Very well, madam, I am at your service."

The young philatelist was just rising to follow Victoria, when William Keniss struck in.

"Madam," said he, "you say you will give five hundred francs for that stamp. Well, I offer six hundred."

"Seven hundred!"

"Eight hundred!"

"Nine hundred!"

"A thousand!"

"A thousand!" cried the little fellow, his eyes shining covetously.

During this time the circle of curious onlookers had become considerably augmented. They now began pushing and jostling each other, so as to see and hear better.

"Let him have it! let him have it!" cried all the boy's comrades.

But at the same moment an unknown voice rose from the midst of the group—

"Don't give it to him unless he pays for it at once. A hundred sous in the hand are better than a hundred francs in the bush!"

William Keniss and Victoria both looked round, but failed to discover the orator to whom they owed this anonymous and disagreeable intervention.

"The dishonest creature! The insolent fellow!" they cried in chorus.

The lad evidently appreciated the depth of the argument, for, turning to Victoria, he asked—

"Let's see, madam, how much could you give me, money down?"

Victoria, unable to hide her hopelessness, hesitated a few seconds before replying.

"Two hundred francs."

"And you, sir?"

"A thousand, to which price the auction had just amounted, as I do not wish you to lose anything by your new method of sale."

"A thousand!" pronounced the little merchant with comic solemnity. "Going!—going! Will no one bid any higher?—gone!"

William Keniss took a bank-note out of his pocket-book and gave it to the exulting young auctioneer, who handed him his stamp in exchange. Then, as he walked off, he said ironically to Victoria, "*Au revoir!*" and left her trembling with rage.

When he was about a hundred yards from the place where he had just bought his stamp he stopped to examine the precious bit of paper. He had not done this before, greatly as he doubted its authenticity, because he wished Victoria to believe he had won the duel in which he was engaged with Miss Betty.

It did not take William Keniss long to discover that

he had purchased a vulgar forgery, so conversant was he with every detail of the real stamp. But the Stamp King never for a moment thought of going back in search of the little fellow who had sold a simple forgery at so high a price. On the one hand, he reflected that the price had not been asked but offered, and on the other, that the merchant, not knowing even to what country the stamp belonged, had not guaranteed its authenticity.

"My good John," said he to his valet as he re-entered his rooms in the Terminus Hotel, "I have just bought something for you."

"You are too kind, sir."

"Look!" And William Keniss held out the false stamp to John, who could not repress a cry as he recognised the one which he himself had had made.

"Wherever did you find it, sir?" he asked.

"At the Stamp Bourse," And he recounted the adventure through which he had just passed.

"It is surprising!—surprising!" John repeated over and over again, playing his part like a first-rate actor.

"Yes, I admit it is an odd thing."

"But are you quite certain, sir, that the stamp is false?"

"Oh, yes, rather! How in the world can you ask me that, you, who are such an authority on the subject of forgeries? Why, my dear John, look at it well. It seems to me there's not a shadow of a doubt."

"Yes, sir, that is so."

"Well, then, I make you a present of the stamp. It will do splendidly for your collection of forgeries."

"I don't know how to thank you, sir."

"Don't thank me; thank chance, to whom you owe the present."

"Then I'm very grateful to chance."

And, slipping into his watch-case the false stamp, which he quite thought he had lost for ever, and



JOHN PUTS THE STAMP INTO HIS WATCH-CASE

which he was very happy to recover, John muttered under his breath, without being heard by William Keniss—

"And now, Miss Scott, we two have to settle this little matter."

(To be continued.)

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S PACKET.

No. 66, 500 varieties, is strongly recommended as the cheapest collection of 500 different Stamps ever offered—the Stamps could not be bought separately for three times the marvellously low price at which it is now offered. The Stamps, etc., are clean, picked specimens fit for any collection. The best 500 varieties in the trade. 4s. 1d., post-free.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 39r, Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.

Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE following is the Report read at the Annual General Meeting of the Philatelic Society, London, for the season 1904-5, by Mr. J. A. Tilleard, Honorary Secretary.

"In my last Annual Report, presented at the Annual General Meeting for the season 1903-4, reference was made to contemplated changes in regard to the offices of the Society and the place of meeting for the succeeding year.

"The lease of the rooms so long occupied at Effingham House having terminated, it was decided to rent a smaller office for the conduct of the general business of the Society, and to arrange for the use of a suitable room for the purposes of meetings. After mature consideration, and after a personal inspection of numerous places likely to afford the requisite accommodation and facilities, it was decided by the Council to accept the offer obtained for the use of the room in Southampton Row that we now occupy. It was accordingly engaged as a place of meeting for the dates announced in the programme for the season, and an office has been secured in a convenient position in the City.

"The change has, I venture to think, been eminently satisfactory from every point of view. The secretarial work has been considerably lessened, owing to the close proximity of the new offices to the places of business of members of the Council, on whom a large part of the work of the Society devolves, while the economy effected has already caused a substantial improvement in the financial position of the Society.

"In presenting his accounts for the year ending in March last, the Honorary Treasurer was able to announce that owing to the reduction in expenses, aided by a slight increase in revenue, the Society was now free from debt, and that notwithstanding the fact that the accounts included six months' expenditure on the old scale.

"The new place of meeting appears to have met with general approval, and a large majority of those who have attended the meetings have expressed to me their entire satisfaction with the new arrangements.

"During the current season twelve new members have been elected, the additions to the list being: Major W. C. Barratt, Colonel J. Bonhote, Lieut.-Col. S. P. Peile, C.B., and Messrs. A. Bagshawe, S. D. Baxter, C. D. Choremi, A. D. Ferguson, G. Ireland, J. R. Laing, A. Naish, W. Nordheimer, and A. J. Warren.

"The resignations during the same period have been fewer than usual, the members who have severed their connection with the Society, at their own request, being: Lieut. H. J. Gillespie, Miss Grommé, and Messrs. C. J. Lucas, W. H. Renwick, and T. Martin Wears.

"I regret to have to record the death during the year of Col. W. E. Williams, who had been a member of the Society for nearly twenty-five years; and of Mr. Gordon Smith, who, since joining our ranks in 1892, had been closely associated with the principal work of the Society.

"The loss sustained by the death of Mr. Gordon Smith is well-nigh irreparable. We shall constantly miss him, not only as a brilliant philatelist, but as one who had endeared himself to all who had the privilege of his acquaintance. Pre-eminent in all that he undertook, he was imbued with the best traditions of the

Society, and maintained them all throughout his philatelic career, and, although we shall not hear his voice again, his words and writings will remain as a living guide to those who are left to mourn his loss. No words of mine can pay a fitting tribute to his memory, but we honour it as that of a great philatelist, and we shall always look back to our association with him with affectionate feelings of the deepest regret for the loss of a true and faithful friend.

"In the course of the season one name has been removed from the list of members under the provisions of the statutes, and the net result of gains and losses for the year is an addition of four to the numbers borne on our roll of membership.

"The first meeting of the season was, on the invitation of the Vice-President, held at his residence, and a very enjoyable evening was spent in inspecting the magnificent collection of the stamps of Great Britain shown by Lord Crawford on this occasion.

"The Annual Dinner of the Society, held on the previous evening, the Earl of Crawford presiding, proved a great success, and was largely attended by members and their friends.

"Sixteen General Meetings have been held during the season, the average attendance being sixteen. Although this number is somewhat less than the average for the preceding season, I think it may be considered satisfactory when we take into account the fact that at least seven or eight of those who are usually most regular in their attendance have, by reason of absence abroad or from ill-health and other causes, found themselves unable to be present during the greater part of the year.

"I have seen a suggestion in a philatelic journal that the reason for the falling off in the attendance is that the place of meeting is inconveniently situated. It goes without saying that any place that might be chosen would be less convenient for some than for others, but I do not think that the immediate proximity of the places of business of stamp merchants would constitute, as was suggested in the criticism in question, any actual inducement to members to attend the meetings. I believe the real reason for the slightly diminished attendance during the season 1904-5 is to be found in the explanation that I have already given.

"The following papers, accompanied in each case by a display of stamps, have been read at the meetings, viz. by Mr. M. P. Castle, 'Notes on the Sydney Views'; by Mr. F. Reichenheim, 'The Unpaid Letter Stamps of France'; by Mr. Yardley, 'The Stamps of Trinidad' and 'The Stamps of the First British Occupation of the Transvaal'; by Mr. L. W. Fulcher, 'The Stamps of Bosnia'; and by Mr. T. W. Hall, 'The 1886-7 Issues of the Stamps of Tolima.'

"Several evenings have been devoted to displays, which have been exceptionally interesting, and have comprised some of the best-known collections of the stamps shown. They have included 'Great Britain,' by the Vice-President; 'British India' and 'Western Australia,' by Mr. L. R. Hausburg; 'Queensland,' by Mr. H. J. Duveen; 'Zanzibar,' by Mr. T. W. Hall; and a selection of various countries by Mr. Sidebotham. In addition to these, Mr. C. J. Phillips kindly lent his specialised collection of the stamps of 'Uganda,' and Mr. W. W. Mann his collection of 'New Zealand' stamps for inspection by members of the Society.

"Numerous meetings of the Council have been held, and the principal matter of importance dealt with has been the selection of a Provisional Working Committee for the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in London in 1906 under the auspices of the Society. The Committee chosen consists of four members of the Society, viz. Messrs. M. P. Castle,

R. Ehrenbach, L. W. Fulcher, and F. Reichenheim, in addition to Messrs. H. R. Oldfield as Hon. Secretary and L. R. Hausburg as Honorary Assistant Secretary to the Committee, with Mr. W. Dorning Beckton and Mr. H. A. Slade, as representatives of provincial societies, and four members representing the trade interests, viz. Messrs. Phillips, Peckitt, Oliver, and Hamilton-Smith.

"The Committee have already completed a large part of the preliminary arrangements, and have secured the use of the fine new hall of the Royal Horticultural Society, and under their able management there can be little doubt that the Exhibition will prove a most successful undertaking, to which we shall all look forward with the greatest interest.

"Considerable progress has been made with the preparations for the publication of Mr. Basset Hull's book on the *Stamps of the Australian Commonwealth*, and it is hoped that the first part will be ready at a comparatively early date.

"Mr. Bacon has also kindly undertaken the labour of completing and superintending the publication of the concluding part of the Society's work on the stamps of the African Colonies, which may be expected to be in the hands of members before the end of the present year.

"Satisfactory arrangements have been made under which this work will be published upon terms relieving the Society from all risk and expense of production, while securing for each member the presentation of a copy free of charge as in the case of the two previous parts, and the payment to the Society of a liberal royalty upon all copies sold by the publishers.

"The thanks of the Society are due to the Expert Committee for their services, which continue to be highly appreciated by members and others who seek the assistance of the Committee. The vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. Gordon Smith towards the end of 1904 was filled by the election of Mr. Yardley, a choice that will, I am sure, commend itself to his fellow-members.

"Messrs. T. Maycock and A. W. Chambers have once again been good enough to act as Auditors of the accounts for the year, and their report, to be submitted this evening, will be more than usually interesting in view of the improvement in the financial position of the Society already reported by the Honorary Treasurer.

"In referring to a few of the events of interest outside the immediate sphere of the operations of the Society, the holding of an International Philatelic Exhibition in Berlin is worthy of note. The undertaking was well carried out and was largely patronised, and amongst the visitors in attendance were numerous English philatelists, including some well-known members of our Society. Two successful Exhibitions have also been held in London, one under the management of the Junior Philatelic Society, consisting of a very complete show of the stamps of Great Britain, and the other, promoted by the Fiscal Philatelic Society, comprising Fiscal and Telegraph stamps of India and the British Colonies.

"Amongst other notable philatelists who have passed away during the year under review may be mentioned Mr. Overy Taylor, who was a prolific writer in the earlier days of Philately and a regular contributor to the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, and the Hon. K. Sanderson and Herr Paul Lietzow, two prominent philatelists of foreign countries.

"The prohibition against the sale of unused 'Official' stamps of this country, noted at the time of their withdrawal, has not long been maintained, and with the tacit consent of the authorities these are now quoted in the leading catalogues.

"The permission to employ for postal purposes embossed and other stamps cut from envelopes, covers, cards, etc., is a somewhat curious innovation, especially in view of the desire to limit the stamps available for postage shown by the act of the authorities in demonetising many of the earlier postage stamps.

"With the exception of a change of colour for the ½d. stamp, there has been practically no addition to the issues of the mother-country, but the introduction of the new multiple watermark for colonial stamps has involved a considerable addition in the number of these stamps to be included in our collections.

"By the reduction in the rate of postage to Australia the scheme of 'Penny Postage' from home to the British possessions throughout the world has been practically completed, the only exceptions being now, I believe, in the case of letters for Rhodesia and Bechuanaland.

"Amongst the new publications of the season, I select for special mention the admirable work on the postage stamps of Sicily, by Dr. Emilio Diena, a member of this Society; and the recent introduction by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., of a new periodical in their *Stamp Weekly*, intended for beginners and young collectors, is a noteworthy event. It is edited by our fellow-member, Mr. E. J. Nankivell, and has already achieved a well-deserved success.

"Having completed my brief survey of the incidents of the season 1904-5, I venture to refer to a subject which, although somewhat remote from Philately, is one in which I feel sure all members of our Society are at the moment greatly interested.

"We are looking forward, and many of us with some excitement, to the expected arrival in England of our Vice-President, who is now engaged in thrashing his way across the Atlantic as a competitor in the great International Ocean Yacht Race for the trophy presented by the German Emperor. This contest appeals to our sporting instincts, especially as members of an insular race, and our knowledge of the thoroughness with which Lord Crawford enters into everything that he undertakes inspires us with the fullest confidence in him as a worthy representative of this country.

"I am sure that I am only voicing the aspirations of all British members of the Society in expressing the hope that we may shortly be able to welcome our Vice-President on his return with the greeting, 'Well done, Valhalla!'

"May, 1905."

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

I can't versify like your irresponsible rhymester neither can I pun quite so hard as he does. Yet I want to tell you about the Juniors' picnic.

We woke up on the morning of the great day Saturday, June 17th, after having gone to rest assured of a fine day for the morrow, to find that London was being watermarked.

Then it faired. It wasn't really half bad until eleven.

Then the sky turned a dirty 6d. bistre-brown colour. By midday a multiple watermarking process had begun. The question before a hundred juniors was *Togo* (the German colony, not the Jap hero) or no *Togo* (this can be the Jap hero if you like, for change).

Liverpool Street Station was the starting-place for the summer *Reunion* of the youngsters, and three o'clock sharp was the appointed time.

It was still raining hard when a small group assembled about quarter to three, and were exchanging doubts as to whether anyone would turn up or no. Some said it was a day for *Indore* (Holkar) occupations. Another said he had *Benin* all morning, and didn't want to miss his afternoon out with the J. P. S. But before anyone could reprove him by giving him a dig in the *Tumaco*, more friends had turned up.

At five to three the party, arrayed in all sorts of covers (except *originals*, *Panamas*, and *Cashmires*), had assumed goodly proportions, and the railway tickets (a new variety printed for the occasion) were distributed. In the next ten minutes some sixty-five had boarded the train.

You could tell them from the rest of mankind (and womankind too, for there was a score of ladies) by various signs. One was intent on reading a philatelic periodical, others were swapping, pocket-book in hand, others—and quite a lot of them too—were wearing the little metal stamp badges of the Society.

The excursion this year was to High Beach, Epping Forest, and as the train drew up at Loughton, out the youngsters came, some still with tweezers and pocket-books in hand, and the march to High Beach commenced. The party broke up into little groups on the two-mile walk, forming a long procession three-quarters of a mile long, or equivalent to 9,037 postage stamps or 8,259 Gibbons large size mounts (No. 6), placed end to end. (Statistics not guaranteed.)

The hotel was reached just twenty minutes before tea-time. We were all *H—y* (I haven't the audacity to print this in full) for it, so we all thanked goodness it was ready five minutes early.

The King's Oak Hotel is a grand old place, an old hunting establishment, and in the great baronial hall the tea-banquet had been set for sixty-five. But what with new arrivals turning up by later trains the tables had several times to be lengthened. When all was in full swing there were seventy-two members and friends to represent the Junior Philatelic Society on its sixth annual outing.

It was a splendid tea, and for a short spell pocket-books were stowed away, though a few tweezers were seen in use for purposes not strictly philatelic. Although there was plenty of everything, you had no fear that anyone would "*Jammu*," or that no *Madeira* would be left when you had finished *Medellin* with the *Sandwiches*.

After tea, the President, who was in the chair surrounded by a bevy of Philatelia's fair friends, made a few brief announcements, brief because he did not want to *Bhor* us with speeches on such an occasion. A few moments later we were let in for a short speech

from a keen-eyed, serious-looking collector, whose presence at the top table marked him out as a committee man. But we didn't mind, for he only wanted us to thank the chairman for his efforts during the day, and to congratulate ourselves on the success of it all.

Then we went into the private sports ground to be photographed in a group, and much amusement was caused by a gentleman who, to avoid the dangers of damp grass, sat upon a popular philatelic periodical.

Then the parties went as they listed till eight o'clock. Most of them joined a rambling party, led by Mr. Darwen, the Vice-President, to whom the wilds of the forest are as familiar as are the stamp dealers in the Strand. He led the cheery crowd of philatelists and Philistines, *Wenden* his way along tortuous paths, through thickets, along wooded glens. Some few who lingered too long over a swap got left behind in great *Straits*, and had to master the mysteries of the maze for themselves. Occasionally a naval gentleman was heard to cry, "*Hoi Hao*" (that's what it sounded like anyway), but whether he was wanting some of those wretched surcharges, or simply to get back to the crowd, no man can tell.

At eight the party reassembled at the hotel. Pairs and groups came from all directions. Some had been giddy enough to take a *Thurn* on a neighbouring roundabout, the *Taxis* for which was one penny. A very small junior is prepared to swear that he overheard a lady collector say, "This is so *Sudan*." We shouldn't be surprised.

But evidently everyone had enjoyed themselves too much to want to come home. They decided to wait for a later train than had been arranged, so the party, some of whom by this time may possibly have refreshed themselves with *Montserrat* or *O-bock*, prepared themselves to enjoy a musical evening.

Everything went off excellently. There was nothing for anyone to *Cavalle* at, and everyone seemed to want *Samoa*. As the train emptied out the juniors at Liverpool Street Station just after half past ten, the most serious person in the company declared, with the utmost sincerity, that he would not have missed such a treat for a *Spanish Guinea*.

Neither would yours faithfully,

SARA WAK.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

The New Gambias

THE new Gambias have arrived and are creating a mild rush for copies. I refer of course to the series of odd values—5d., 7½d., 10d., 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 3s. The 5d., 7½d., and 10d. are on multiple paper, and create no anxiety; but the 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 3s. are all on single CA paper, and as it is known that the single CA paper is all exhausted, further supplies must be on multiple paper. Consequently the first supplies received by dealers were sold out in no time, and now all are waiting and hoping for a further supply before the issue on single CA paper gives out; as the printing of the high values is said not to have exceeded 6,000 of each value, the chance of anyone getting a second supply is small indeed. Hence these three high values on single CA paper are likely to be scarce. Already, I am told, they are being sold at double face, and from all I hear they should be secured as soon as possible even at that price, for most dealers have more orders waiting than they are likely to be able to fill.

France

IN the forthcoming Gibbons there are a few drops in the rarities of the first issue, 1849–50. The 25 c., deep blue on toned paper, unused, has been reduced from

50s. to 40s.; the 40 c., orange, unused, from 25s. to 20s.

The 15 c., deep green on green paper, unused, left unpriced in the 1904 Catalogue, is now priced £6. In the used column there is a slight reduction in most of the stamps.

In the 1852, or Presidency Series, the 10 c., used, has been raised from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d.

Throughout the other series there is a general tendency to small reductions, with a slight increase here and there, but only a few very notable changes. The 40 c. of the Empire Series of 1862–70, unused, has been raised, the orange shade from 7s. 6d. to 12s., and the orange-vermilion from 12s. to 15s.; but the 40 c., scarlet-vermilion, of the Bordeaux set of November, 1870, unused, has been reduced from 60s. to 40s., and the 80 c., dull rose, has been raised from 8s. to 30s.

Baden

PASSING over some fifty pages of French Colonials we come to the German States, Baden being the first on the list. The issues of 1851 and 1854–8 remain as before. Unused they are scarce, used they are grand old stamps within the reach of the pence or even the schoolboy.

In the 1860–2 issue the specialist will have to pay more for the scarce perf. 13½, and even the general

collector will find the values of the commoner set nearly all a little dearer.

| | 1904. | | 1905. | |
|----------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1862. | | | | |
| 1 kr., black . | 3 0 | 0 9 | 3 6 | 1 0 |
| 6 kr., blue . | 5 0 | 1 6 | 5 0 | 2 0 |
| 9 kr., brown . | 5 0 | 1 3 | 6 0 | 1 6 |

In the 1862-4 series the 18 kr., green, has been raised, both unused and used, from 18s. and 7s. 6d. to 25s. and 12s.

Alsace and Lorraine

THESE interesting souvenirs of the great war of 1870-1 remain stationary in price, which probably means that after the reductions of recent years they have touched

bottom. Nice mint copies are certainly not so plentiful as they were, and desirable copies with dated postmarks are getting very scarce.

German Empire

THE higher values of the first issue of the German Empire, which a few years ago were so common, exhibit an unmistakable tendency to rise. The 7 kr., blue, unused, has been raised from 10s. to 12s. 6d., and the ultramarine shade from 12s. to 15s. The 2 kr. of the 1873 issue, large shield, always a scarce stamp, has been raised, both unused and used, from 5s. and 10s. to 6s. and 12s.

In the current series the redrawn type of the 5 mark, black and lake, left unpriced in the last Catalogue, is now priced 8s. 6d. and 7s. 6d.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

G. P. (Clapham).—From your description we take your Transvaal to be Gibbons' No. 240, priced used at 15s. As you say it is surcharged V.R. TRANSVAAL, it cannot be, as you imagine, the earlier issue of 1870-5.

Reader.—There are no postage stamps of British Guiana watermarked SA. All the 1860 stamps were printed by Waterlow, and were unwatermarked. Yes, our publishers' Blank Album No. 31 would be suitable for blocks of stamps, but a movable-leaf album would be better, though, of course, much dearer.

H. E. (Twickenham).—Major Evans, in his excellent work *Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, gives the following explanation of the term *tête-bêche*: "A term applied in French to stamps printed upside down in reference to one another. One such stamp may appear in a sheet, through one of the dies forming the plate being accidentally set the wrong way; this stamp will be *tête-bêche* as regards those surrounding it. Some of the stamps of Grenada were printed with alternate rows reversed, so that the stamps in one row were *tête-bêche* with reference to those in the next. Such varieties must of course be shown in pairs, as the stamps when separated exhibit no peculiarity." Put more briefly, a *tête-bêche* pair is a pair in which one of the stamps is upside down.

W. F. (London).—We cannot tell you of any place where you can inspect all makes of albums. Dealers who do not themselves publish albums generally show

the leading sorts. We do not know of any album published complete for the first fifty years with a supplement for subsequent issues. An old edition of the Imperial Album might answer the first requirement, but the supplement could not be got. We don't think there would be much demand for such an album. Your best plan will be to get a blank album, then you can commence where you please, and collect what you like.

Ah, yes, we share your regret that the circulation of *G. S. W.* is only 8,000, but with the kind help of readers like yourself we will spin it up during the coming winter. You are mistaken in supposing it is not generally displayed in the London book-shops. We have seen large bundles in several, and prominently displayed.

The young collector is a mixed variety, and though he is not a Great Mogul, he likes to hear all about the doings of the said Great Mogul, and when the big Exhibition is opened next year you will do well to go and study the Great Moguls' exhibits.

Mr. Walton's articles will deal with the album question in good time. Don't be in a hurry. If we polished off all our programme, there would be an end of *G. S. W.*, and then where would you be?

Post cards with any postage stamps reproduced in colours on them are illegal, and the publisher and seller would be liable to prosecution by the Inland Revenue authorities.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps

are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged; R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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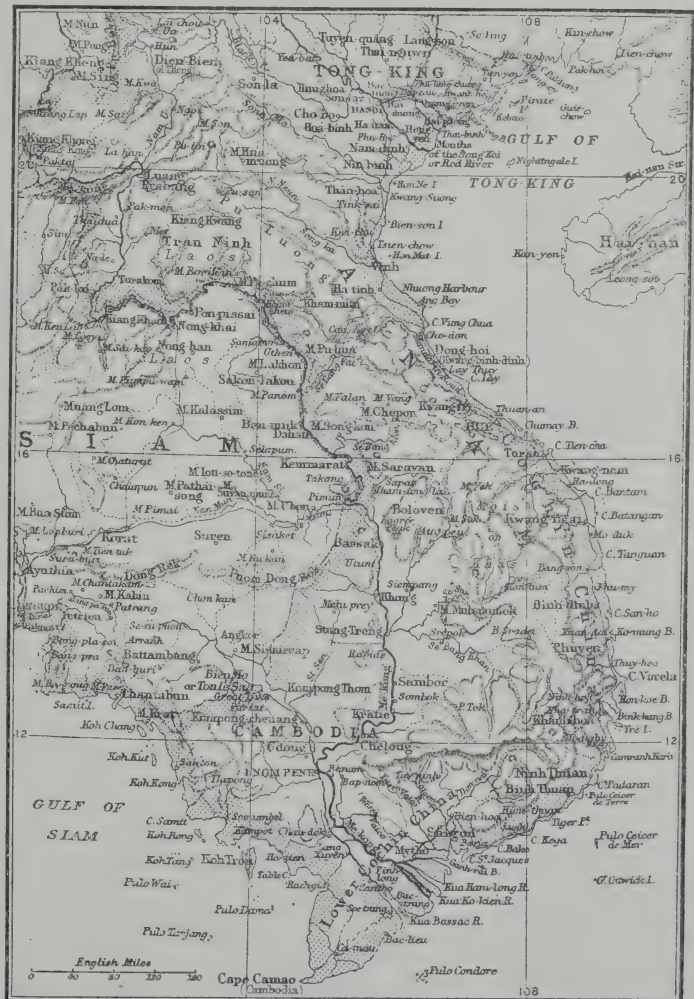
THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Annam and Tonquin

M. ZIMMERMAN, of the *Annales de Géographie*, Paris, tells us that France obtained a footing in Indo China in the year 1862, when a part of Cochin China, with Saigon and the Pulo Condor Islands, was acquired from the Emperor of Annam, a vassal of the Emperor of China. The colony of French Cochin China, to which the Protectorate of Cambodia had been added in 1863, was constituted in 1870. After a war from 1883 to 1885, the French protectorate over Annam and Tonquin was recognised by China. Towards Siam, France obtained in 1893 the left bank of the Mekong, together with rights over a zone fifteen miles wide on the right bank.

Annam lies between Tonquin on the north, the China Sea on the east, and Cochin China on the south. It is rich in agricultural resources. The government is a monarchy with a French Resident. It was formerly a Chinese possession, and became independent in



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J. Bartholomew, Edin.

1428. The population is about 5,000,000, and the capital Hué, on the River Hué, with a population of 50,000.

Tonquin figures variously as Tongking, Tungking, and Tonkin, but Tonquin is the form adopted by the French. It is bounded by China, the Gulf of Tonquin, Annam, and the Shan States. At one time it was tributary to China, and latterly under Annamese suzerainty. In 1873 an unsuccessful French expedition under Garnier was sent against Tonquin, and a treaty between France and Annam was ratified in 1874. The contest for Tonquin was renewed in 1882, and campaigns were undertaken by various French generals against the Black Flags and the Chinese. The population is stated to be 7,500,000. The capital is Hanoi, on the River Sangkoi, with a population of about 150,000.

The interior of Tonquin is a highland region varying in elevation from 2,000 to 4,000 feet. The deep bays and gorges are said to be still a favourite haunt of pirates. The climate is tropical.

Annam consists largely of a granitic mountain chain stretching from Tonquin to Cochin China, close to the coast of the China Sea, covered with virgin forests of teak, ironwood, and lacquer trees.

The trade of Indo China is mostly carried on with foreign countries.

Their Philatelic History

The philatelic history of Annam and Tonquin is a very brief one, and is confined to one issue, which served all requirements till the colonies were included under the more comprehensive administration of Indo China. Three values of

what is known as the "Peace and Commerce" type of France were surcharged very roughly "A & T" and the figure of value. A subsequent supply was surcharged with the initials "A" and "T", but with a hyphen instead of the sign "&". Specialists find varieties in the letters of the surcharge and in the figures, but the beginner may confine himself to the one series, or at most to the two set out.

1888. The Peace and Commerce type of France surcharged in black, as in the illustration.



| | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 on 2 c., brown . . . | 1 3 | 1 3 |
| 1 on 4 c., purple-brown . . . | 1 3 | 1 6 |
| 5 on 10 c., black on lilac . . . | 1 6 | 1 9 |



Hyphen instead of "&".

| | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 on 2 c., brown . . . | 5 0 | — |
| 1 on 4 c., purple-brown . . . | 10 0 | — |
| 5 on 10 c., black on lilac . . . | 3 0 | — |

(To be continued.)

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 36.)

Stamps without a Name (continued)

possession, and which he may find somewhat difficult to locate.

ANYTHING more fearsome-looking than the first issue of Hyderabad (Deccan) would be difficult to imagine. It lasted two years, and then gave place to an issue in which English and native characters figure.

HYDERABAD.



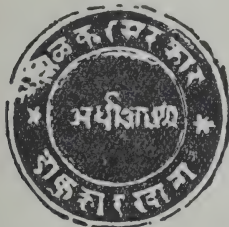
1869.



1871.

Holkar issued a circular stamp in 1889 which must have cost a small fortune in printer's ink. All the other issues of Holkar have the head of the reigning prince as the central design.

HOLKAR.



1889.

The stamps of the Native States of India, the designs of which are for the most part made up of written native characters, are more numerous than I anticipated. Therefore, lest the reader should get "Native States" on the brain, I purpose to group the remaining States together and give typical examples of those which may prove a source of worry to the beginner. It must be clearly understood, however, that the list is by no means a complete one. The reader must take it as an attempt to illustrate native stamps which may come into his

KASHMIR.



1867.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR.



1883-94.

JHALAWAR.



1887-90.

JHIND.



1874.



1882-4.

NEPAUL.



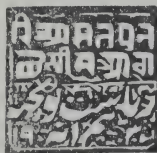
1881.

NOWANUGGUR.



1877.

POONCH.



1884-8.

RAJPEEPLA.

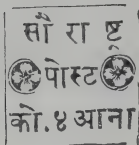


1880.

SORUTH.



1864.

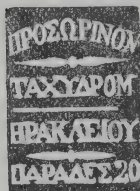


1868.

The stamps of Afghanistan from 1880 to the present time have designs of written characters in a circular or rectangular frame. They have already been illustrated in the editor's article on Afghanistan on page 360 of vol. i. We therefore pass to the consideration of two Cretan designs. The Turks evacuated Crete in 1898, and the island came under the joint administration of Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia. The British sphere of action was the province of Candia. A postal service was established between Heracleion (the town of Candia) and six of the chief towns in the province. The first stamp issued was of local production. Its design consisted of an inscription of four lines which reads, "Provisional post service of Heracleion." The fourth line gives the value in "paras," the Greek plural of which is "parades." This stamp was quickly superseded by an issue which was printed in Athens. The same inscription appears in a circular band enclosing the value "20 parades" or "10 parades."

CRETE.

British Sphere of Administration.



1898.



No one can mistake the "Pyramid and Sphinx" issues of Egypt. They date from the year 1867. The first issue was made in 1866, and the stamps of this issue might easily be imagined to belong

to some Indian native stamp. Below are two illustrations of the "10 paras" and the "2 piastre" values.

EGYPT.



1866.



For twenty-five years Japan indulged in mystic designs in which written characters figured prominently. From 1872 the chrysanthemum, the national flower of Japan, may always be seen in every issue. We give illustrations of the issues of 1871 and 1872.

JAPAN.



1871.



1872.

In an earlier article I had occasion to mention the existence of approval sheets of Japanese stamps which professed to be rare bargains. Many beginners have been duped by these apparently genuine stamps which are really official imitations. They may be distinguished from the genuine issues by two minute Japanese characters meaning "facsimile" in various positions on the stamps. Often these imitations have these two characters blotted out by a spurious postmark in order that the buyer may suppose that they are genuine used stamps. I need scarcely point the moral to this mean trickery on the part of some obscure stamp dealer whose name is unknown to me, but whose handiwork I have seen in more than one beginner's album.

(To be continued.)

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BY-PATHS OF PHILATELY

PICTURE STAMPS AND METHODS OF ARRANGEMENT

By H. R. OLDFIELD

(Continued from page 38.)

5. Pictures of Animals (continued)

AMONG the stamps showing copies of beasts will be found:—

Beavers, and it is interesting to compare the pictures in 1859 from Canada and in 1880 from Tasmania, while if you refer to the original stamps it is not difficult to decide which one evidences the better workmanship. The *Llamas*, of

Canada.—1859.



Tasmania.—1880.



Peru, were issued in 1866, while specimens of *Cattle* are magnificently illustrated by Uruguay in 1895 and by the United States of America in 1898. *Kangaroos* are seen in issues of New South Wales and of South Australia; *Tigers* in the Malay States stamps of 1900, and also, but very badly executed, in a French Congo stamp of the same year. As a contrast to this last, so far as workmanship is concerned, you might look at the *Elephant* illustrated in the 1894 issue of the Congo State.

North Borneo and Liberia have produced a miscellaneous collection of animals, some of which are beautifully engraved, e.g. *Bear*, *Monkey*, *Crocodile*, and *Stag*.

Nyassa shows a *Giraffe* and *Dromedaries*, and the Sudan is responsible for *Camels*.

Peru.—1866.



Uruguay.—1895.



U.S.A.—1898.

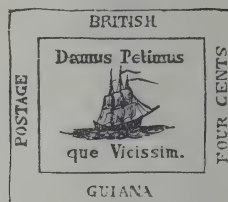


Congo.—1894.



North Borneo.—1894.



*British Guiana.—1852.**U.S.A.—1901.*

The earliest illustration of a steam engine is in 1860, the latest in 1902, while a motor carriage is to be found in 1901.

New Brunswick.—1860.*North Borneo.—1902.**U.S.A.—1901.*

(To be continued.)

As regards *Fishes*, Newfoundland is responsible for these and for *Seals*. And miscellaneous *Dragons*, etc., are found in the stamps of China, Formosa, and Shanghai.

6. Pictures of Things

Here, again, the natural division is according to the thing which is illustrated, and most of the stamps belonging to this class fall under the heads of Conveyances by Sea or Conveyances by Land, for up to now we have not reached the height of Conveyances through the Air.

The subdivisions in this class are naturally arranged in order of date, and illustrate in an interesting manner the progress made as regards steam engines on land and on sea. The earliest picture of a ship is in 1852, and the latest of a steamship in 1901.

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GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Norwegian Provisionals

OUR attention just now is being concentrated on the Norwegian provisionals which have arrived. I am told that they are selling like hot cakes, for they are followed by the news that stamps of a permanent type will be issued very shortly. All the same, the number printed should be enough to go round, for there is a pretty general opinion that these high values are required more for sale to collectors than for genuine postal requirements. But, of course, after the separation the stamps bearing the portrait of the superseded King were bound to be withdrawn and replaced.

Norway for Specialists

Norway is a charming country for stamp collectors. It is the most accommodating country with which I am philatelically acquainted.

It may be simplified for the youngest collector, and it may be specialised to satiate even the most omnivorous specialist. Indeed, it is a wonder to me that it has not found more favour with the Great Moguls.

As an indication of the scope for specialising, take merely the series of 1877 and these superseded high values. In each case the figures of value were engraved by hand separately upon each stamp. Hence every sheet of every value consisted of one hundred types.

If any specialist wants anything more in the way of varieties than this he must be a hungry fellow.

Norway for the Beginner

But Norway is an equally charming country for the beginner. Its types are distinct; they stretch away back into the early postal days of 1855; prior to these provisionals of to-day, there is only one other, and that is common; high values are conspicuous by their absence—even the so-called high values of the King Oscar II. set do not run higher than 2s., and in the used condition the stamps of Norway may be had for a few pence each, rarely reaching a catalogue quotation of 1s.—even nice copies of the first stamp

issued, a fine old stamp with an antique cast of countenance, may be had for 6d.; and last, but not least, used copies are generally very lightly cancelled.

The Norwegian Crown

There's a crown going a-begging up in Norway, with all its philatelic possibilities. And I hear that already Mr. C. Whitfield King, of Ipswich, representing "the trade," and Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, of Manchester, representing collectors, have started off, post-haste, for the "Land of the Midnight Sun."

I have a portrait and a biography of each up my sleeve, ready for all eventualities.

Prince Charles of Denmark is, however, said to be first favourite. Should a popular Prince accept the throne, we may probably expect a portrait series to signalise the event.

Miss Swift's Rotating Badge

A CORRESPONDENT wants me to explain how Miss Swift's "Globe" badge is to be rotated to show the country desired. Another wants to know if it is "a panorama kind of thing," another "if it rotates on its own axis," and yet another wants to know "how it can be carried about."

I am afraid I cannot satisfy the natural curiosity of my correspondents. As a way out of the difficulty, the collector might employ a Sancho Panza to ride along behind with the rotating mechanism.

English Kings and Queens Stamps

HERE is an excellent suggestion from the *Melbourne Argus* for a series of Commonwealth stamps, which may be commended to the authorities that be—home and colonial:—

I suggest that to interest children in history, stamps should represent the kings and queens of England. The halfpenny should have the portrait of the first sovereign of Great Britain, the penny stamp the succeeding sovereign, and so on until the various values absorb all the kings and queens of England. Children, and even elderly people, would then be better acquainted than they are now with the sequence of the rulers of England. A similar rule is carried out with the presidents of the United States of America. No two values have the same portrait, consequently

American children become familiar with President Washington, Jackson, Jefferson, etc. Nearly every child collects postage stamps, and the portrait of the sovereign, with the name and date of reign, would be highly instructive, and inspire a loyalty that would commend the Federal Government to the whole world.

The point of the suggestion is an excellent one, but the order for a series that would use up all the kings and queens of England from the first sovereign is a rather tall one. It would mean a series of over fifty values. The proposer surely could not have dipped into his English history of late to propose using up all the kings and queens. All the same, a series might be made up of kings and queens representative of periods or of the various reigning houses—Alfred for the Saxons, William I. for the Normans, Richard I. for the Plantagenets, and so on.

But it is to be hoped that an all-wise and merciful Providence will save us the horror of such an idea being committed to the execution of the designers and engravers of the postal abortions of Victoria.

Newspaper Ignorance of Philately

THE *Australian Philatelist* makes merry over some drivel that *Science Siftings* published recently about rare stamps, more especially about a New Zealand stamp printed upside down, which has never been heard of outside the editorial office of *Science Siftings*.

It is a psychological fact that every provincial town has its well-known character with a few slates loose, and from a long acquaintance with newspaper work I am inclined to believe that every newspaper staff has its own peculiar imbecile. The newspaper imbecile is always ready to write about anything and everything under the sun. His ignorance is so prodigious that he never realises his own unfitness for any work. He is the butt of the staff, and the receptacle for inquiries that lead to nowhere, and he is often turned loose on subjects on which the ignorance of the general staff is as profound as his own. Stamp collecting is always regarded as a safe field for him. We had one such imbecile on the staff of a great London daily on which I served,

and we encouraged him to write on such topics as the courtship of birds. He got the comps. to set up some of his stuff now and then, but we generally managed to blue-pencil it in time.

But newspaper indifference as to stamp collecting is on the mend, and decently edited papers no longer turn their special jackass on to the subject.

Australians and the King's Portrait

SOME of our Australian friends are very quaint and amusing when they like. A deputation of the Sydney Philatelic Club recently had an interview with the Postmaster-General as to the forthcoming Commonwealth issue, and we are told that the Postmaster-General showed a disposition towards the King's Head on the proposed new stamps; but an original genius of the deputation gave vent to the information that "we are all mortal, and should death happen to overtake His Majesty as soon as the new stamps were ready for issue, and his successor intimated a desire to see his profile on our stamps, all the expense incurred would be lost."

Might I suggest that in case the King's portrait should be selected, His Majesty, to save the expense of a new series, might be got to agree to postpone his departure to "the realms of the blest" till it can be inexpensively arranged with the Commonwealth Postal Authorities?

Funniosities

AN ingenious correspondent sends me a selection of satirical suggestions for new issues, all done in colours and perforated with the domestic sewing-machine. To one, inscribed a "Wrinkle Sell-ebration," I object very much. A Counani stamp he inscribes, "Stamps made to order—all surcharges in stock," and a Congo stamp shows a Belgian officer pitching into a native. An envelope with a North Pole stamp is marked and initialed by the postman, "No answer." If I am bombarded with this sort of thing, I shall have to suggest to the publishers of *G. S. W.* the publication of a *Philatelic Punch*.

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NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Crete.—We quote the following from the *Monthly Journal*:—

"In reply to our implied query in March as to the lady represented on the new 5 lepta stamp, a correspondent at Corfu very kindly sends us the following information: The design is that of a fine antique 2 drachmas coin, of the fifth century, struck at Gortyna, in Crete, and representing the Cretan nymph Britomartis, hidden among the branches of an old oak. This design was formerly known to mythologists as showing Europa in a plane tree; but M. Sooronos has demonstrated that it is really Britomartis, in his article entitled 'Britomartis, la soidisant Europe sur le platane de Gortyne' (*Britomartis, the supposed Europa in a plane tree, of Gortyna*), published in the *Revue Belge de Numismatique*, in 1894. Of course, if both the ladies had a habit of roosting in trees, it is very difficult at the present day to say which of them the original artist intended to represent. The tree also might be either oak or plane; the lady is certainly quite plain and not hidden in its branches."

Norway.—We are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. for a set of the three provisionals foreshadowed in our last number (p. 42).

As announced, the three high values with portrait of King Oscar II. have been superseded by provisionals surcharged on remainders of the 2 skilling of the 1867-8 series. The kr. 1.00 is in green, the kr. 1.50 in dark blue, and the kr. 2.00 in carmine.



Kr. 1.50

Provisionals.

Surcharged as above on 2 skilling of 1867-8.

"Kr. 1.00" in green, on 2 sk., yellow, 100,000
 "Kr. 1.50" in dark blue " " 50,000
 "Kr. 2.00" in carmine " " 50,000

It seems that of several stamps of the old issues there are large remainders in stock. The *Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift* gives the quantities of remainders of the "skilling" series as follows:—

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1863 series | . . . 24 skill. | . . . 400,000 stamps. |
| 1867 | " . . . 2 " " | " 790,000 " |
| 1872 | " . . . 2 skilling | " 410,000 " |
| " | " . . . 4 " " | " 470,000 " |
| " | " . . . 7 " " | " 470,000 " |

Two hundred thousand of the 1867 2 sk., yellow, have been taken to form the provisional stamps just issued.

The first notice of the impending change was the following telegram to the *Globe*:—

"THE STAMPS OF NORWAY.

"CHRISTIANIA, June 21st.

"The break-up of the Scandinavian Union will be complete on July 1st, for on June 30th all the postage stamps in Norway bearing the portrait of King Oscar will be withdrawn from circulation, and their place will be taken by a new series of stamps bearing the Arms of Norway."

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. tell us it is expected that the permanent stamps of the three high values will be issued very shortly.

As to these large stocks of remainders of old issues, Mr. Westoby, in his *Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe*, writes:—

"In 1888 the remainders of the issues in skilling, as also those of 3, 5, 10, 12, and 20 öre of the issue of 1877, were sold to the *chef de cabinet* of the President of the Council of Ministers, to be taken as required, provided that the quantity was not yearly less than a certain specified amount. They could therefore be doled out according to the requirements of collectors, and the sale gave rise to unfavourable criticism at the time."

Of the King Oscar II. stamps, now superseded, Messrs. Harrison and Buckley, in their excellent history of the stamps of Norway, published in the *Philatelic Record*, vols. xix. and xx., inform us that they were printed by Petersen on paper watermarked with a posthorn in sheets of 100, ten rows of 10.

"To produce these stamps two printings were necessary. Firstly, the frame was printed with the oval in centre blank and without figures; and secondly, the head of King Oscar II. was printed on an oval space. Consequently two different plates were required; these were produced by electrolysis from matrices engraved by Kruger at Berlin. A separate plate was prepared for each of the three values to print the frame. The value in figures was engraved by hand on each stamp on the plate; thus we have 100 types of each value, *i.e.*, the numerals on every stamp vary in size and shape."

And, writing in 1898, they add, "More than 1,000,000 of each of the three values were printed and delivered to the authorities in August, 1878, and to-day (1898), after a lapse of more than nineteen years, these remain on hand."

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Kr. 1.00 | | 600,000 |
| Kr. 1.50 | | 900,000 |
| Kr. 2.00 | | 800,000 |

Ewen's Weekly gives the numbers of the present-day remainders of the King Oscar II. stamps as follows:—

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Kr. 1.00 | | 340,500 |
| Kr. 1.50 | | 827,600 |
| Kr. 2.00 | | 737,600 |

Presumably these are still remainders of the first printing after twenty-seven years of use, and if they are it is obvious that the first printing must have been made on a most absurd estimate as to the demand for these high values.



MISCELLANEOUS

Uniform Commonwealth Stamps

Official Report of Deputation (consisting of Messrs. A. F. Basset Hull, President of the Sydney Philatelic Club; A. H. Pettifer, Vice-President of the Club; J. H. Smyth, Hon. Secretary; and E. D. E. Van Weenen, a member of the Committee) which waited upon the Postmaster-General (the Hon. Sydney Smith, M.P.), at 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 4th May, 1905, with regard to the necessity for a uniform issue of postage stamps for the Commonwealth.

MR. HULL: We have come as members of the Sydney Philatelic Club, and as such occupying some standing amongst the postage stamp students throughout the Commonwealth, to, with the fullest respect, represent the necessity for a uniform system of postage stamps throughout the Commonwealth, and to venture certain suggestions which may be of value in dealing with the question. Looking as far back as September, 1901, we find that when the Postal Bill was under consideration in the House of Representatives, the question of introducing a uniform postage stamp throughout the Commonwealth was referred to, and it was suggested during the discussion that the uniform stamp should be issued within six months of the passing of the Bill. Four years have elapsed, and so far nothing has been done. It is almost unnecessary for us to point out how important and of what commercial value a uniform issue of stamps would be, allowing of general use throughout all the States. There are certain disadvantages, the principal of which is the liability of stamps purchased in one State being used in other States in a larger proportion, but probably there would be a fairly close balance, except in the case of Tasmania—in the latter case the difference would be due to "Tattersall" receiving large numbers of stamps from the other States. So far as the use of stamps for small remittances is concerned, the Eastern States would suffer, inasmuch as Western Australia remits more money through the post to the Eastern States than is remitted by those States to the West. As a remedy, we would suggest the abolition of the system of repurchasing stamps from the public and the issue of postal notes for smaller amounts than one shilling, or the issue of postal currency, similar to that of the United States in 1866, payable at face value in any State, such currency to be for 1d., 2d., 3d., and 6d., uniform in design, but to be overprinted with the name of State selling such currency, so that periodical adjustments could be made as in the case of money orders and postal notes. A fee of ½d. in the shilling to be charged on such currency. If "Tattersall" continues, we would suggest that he be required to make a return of the value of stamps received from each State for return of postage. Now, as an advertisement, the uniform postage stamp would be of great value to the Commonwealth. Postage stamps circulate throughout the whole of the world, and are the means of considerably advertising a country. At present there are six States issuing different stamps, and these stamps are scattered all over the world, and the average person in other countries has not the faintest idea of there being an Australian Federation, as they get the impression from the stamps that the States are still separate. As an instance of effective advertisement, take the case of New Zealand. In 1896 they issued a very handsome series of stamps. These stamps did more to advertise New Zealand in foreign countries than all the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds in other directions, inasmuch as these stamps go into the hands of people who never see a photograph or a pamphlet or any other advertisement, such as the Hon. Mr. Ward has lately told us are being issued by New Zealand. I may mention that it is esti-

mated that there are over one million stamp collectors in the United States alone, and for the whole of the world this number might be multiplied by ten. A large number of these collectors will naturally inquire and ascertain as much as possible regarding the countries their stamps represent.

In 1893, the United States issued the Columbian set of stamps. These beautiful stamps went all over the world, and were a great advertisement for the United States, as also were the issues commemorative of the Buffalo and St. Louis Exhibitions. It is really a gigantic scheme of advertisement that reaches people and places that cannot be reached by any other means. For this purpose stamps should be handsome and striking in design and of superior execution. In the United States, small stamps are at present manufactured complete at a cost of 2½d. per 1,000. Large stamps cost 8½d. per 1,000—including the cost of very extensive dies and plates, and double the quantity of paper and labour for a similar number of small stamps. Here, in Australia, the cost is from 7½d. to 1s. per 1,000 for small stamps.

We desire to point out that it is necessary that the Department should take early steps for the issue of a uniform stamp if it is proposed to issue it at the end of the book-keeping period on the 31st December next. In fact, almost immediate action should be taken to get the dies and plates and a supply of stamps ready for simultaneous issue from every post office throughout the Commonwealth on a fixed date. We regret to admit the inability at the present time of producing effective dies locally anywhere in the Commonwealth, but the printing could be performed either at Sydney or Melbourne; the Government Printing Office at Sydney is provided with the very latest American machines. It would be necessary, however, to import an expert printer. We may mention that India imports all her stamps ready printed by De La Rue and Company, of London, contractors for the British Government. Canada, engraves and prints her own stamps, but she has a branch of the American Bank Note Company, where all of the very finest work possible can be turned out.

(Specimens of the New Zealand 1d. universal stamp—of the uniform 9d. stamp issued in the Commonwealth—and of a fiscal stamp used in Western Australia were submitted for inspection.)

I think these specimens speak for themselves. The 9d. stamp is a crude and coarsely engraved production. The New Zealand stamp is designed by one of the foremost artists in England, and is now printed from steel plates in New Zealand. In execution and design it leaves little to be desired.

In September, 1904, at the request of the Secretary to the Post Office Department, we submitted certain suggestions; these were published in *The Australian Philatelist*. There were a great many other suggestions beyond what have been mentioned just now; perhaps they might be referred to.

MR. SMITH: I have seen them.

MR. VAN WEENEN: I do not know that I can add much to what has been represented by Mr. Hull. The desire is to impress the necessity of having a uniform stamp as early as possible. We think the stamp should be illustrative of Australia and of its productions. For instance, there has never been any stamp issued illustrative of this great wool-producing country, which could be well illustrated by the sheep. As regards the production of the stamps, from what I have seen at the Government Printing Office here the work is far away above that in the other States. Of the specimen stamps submitted, the New Zealand stamp, it will be seen, is much more artistic than the Australian production.

MR. PETTIFER added that philatelists were conversant with every means of printing and producing stamps, they had a knowledge of stamp matters which did not altogether come within the functions of postal authorities, and that the services of stamp collectors, more especially of the Sydney Philatelic Club, were always at the disposal of the Postmaster-General. Philatelists wished finality in regard to this matter, and hoped that the Postmaster-General would take every means of carrying their wishes into effect.

MR. SMYTH referred to the chaotic state of affairs which at present exists, and while not concerned in postal administration, commented on the want of uniformity which at present is the case, there being values of stamps in some States which are not in others. He said that stamp collectors desired to be a help rather than a hindrance to the postal authorities, and that while better work might be produced abroad, he would prefer to see as much as possible done in this country, even if it were not up to the standard of ex-

cellence which might be desired. He added that the use of State stamps at present is misleading, and that many people abroad hardly know there is such a nation as the Australian Commonwealth.

MR. SMITH: I am very pleased in having an opportunity of meeting representatives of your Society, and I have no doubt that the information which has and can be given will be of value, and will help us in dealing with the question. This is no new matter. It has already been considered by other governments, and is under the consideration of the present Government, but there are certain financial difficulties in the way. I realise the importance of the subject and the great convenience it would be to have a stamp that could be utilised in any part of Australia, and you can rest assured that the matter is receiving every consideration. There are no two opinions as to the necessity for a uniform stamp being issued as early as possible; the only difficulty is as to the best way of bringing it about.—*The Australian Philatelist.*

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XV

How John is on the verge of discovering that he is hoist with his own petard

JOHN rose at daybreak next morning. He had not been able to close his eyes all night, and now, as the light began to steal through the curtains of his room, he could not stay a minute longer in bed. Then he reflected on the means he must adopt to cause his false Brahmapootra stamp to fall, in the simplest manner possible, into Miss Betty's hands, and to make her, when once she had it in her possession, start off immediately for New York. So he went down to the hotel office to learn the date of the departure of the next steamer.

"To-morrow, Saturday," they told him.

There was not a moment to lose. If Miss Betty was to go by this, she must catch the steamer train that very evening at the Gare Saint-Lazare. On the other hand, it would not do to hurry her too much for fear of suggesting dangerous suspicions to the little American.

"The transatlantic train starts at ten o'clock this evening," thought John. "I will not go to the Hotel Bristol till towards the dinner-hour. I will tell Victoria a nice little story in as few words as possible, and she will immediately go and repeat it to her mistress, who, if she does not wish to miss the boat—and, after what she will have heard, she will be very anxious not to miss it—will only just have time to strap up her trunks and rush to the station without losing a moment."

This decision once taken, John felt more at ease. He helped his master to dress, and then, when he had gone out, strolled off for a walk himself, for it was a magnificent spring morning. The first persons whom John saw in the street were the two spies, who had kept watch on him since the evening before, thanks to the good Victoria. He had no difficulty in recognising them, and immediately greeted them with an amicable "Good morning," accompanied by an ironical smile. M. Picquiseau's agents, taken by surprise, pretended not to have seen him and turned away their heads, while John profited by this momentary inattention to jump into an omnibus, "Gare Saint-

Lazare—Place Saint-Michel," which was passing within two steps of him; and as the heavy vehicle carried him away, he cared not in what direction, the astute American could see the two individuals still standing there, but glancing hopelessly from right to left, no doubt asking themselves if the "client" whom they had been set to shadow had flown away or dropped down into one of the city sewers. John had outwitted the two Argus-eyed ones, but he thought it prudent not to leave the omnibus in which he had taken shelter until it arrived at the Place de l'Opéra, where he descended, well assured that for that day at least he had disposed of the followers with whom Miss Betty Scott, in order to paralyse his efforts, had endowed his noble person.

Then he entered a restaurant for some lunch, and this duty accomplished, he took a fiacre and drove to the Jardin d'Acclimatation, which he had not yet seen, and which he particularly wished to see before his departure from Paris. There he spent a charming afternoon. The parrots, monkeys, stags, antelopes, elephants, gazelles, kangaroos, zebras, camels, dromedaries, giraffes—all the animals represented there, in fact, whether by one specimen or by many, received a visit from him in turn; and so the time passed without John observing its rapid flight. However, it occurred to him at last to look at his watch.

"Good gracious!" he cried. "Five minutes to six; I have only just time to drive to the Hotel Bristol!"

And he set off at once, rejoicing in his well-spent day, and more delighted still at the thought of the superb trick he was about to play on his friend Victoria. She, on her part, had been very careful not to tell Miss Betty what had happened the evening before on the Stamp Bourse, for fear she should receive a scolding for not having managed the business better.

It was exactly twenty minutes to seven when he arrived at the hotel in the Place Vendôme where his master's rival was staying. In the vestibule he was met by the worthy M. Pavilly.

"Monsieur wishes—?" said he.

"To see Miss Victoria Crockett, Miss Scott's maid. I must speak to her at once."

"She has just this minute come in. You will find her in their rooms on the first floor."

John mounted the stairs, four steps at a time, and soon found himself in Miss Scott's apartments, the door of which was opened by Victoria herself.

"Oh, is it you, John?" she cried at sight of her friend. "How good of you to come to see me! You can come in; I am quite alone."

"Miss Scott is not in then?"

"No, she has not come back yet. She spends the whole day exploring the neighbourhood of Paris, and sometimes doesn't get back till quite late."

"Oh, bother it!"

"Do you mind?"

"Just a little."

"Why?"

"Look here!—But I must tell you first of all this is a very serious matter."

"Oh, dear! You do frighten me! Has Mr. Keniss—?"

"Mr. Keniss has nothing to do with the matter. It is entirely between you and me."

"Do explain yourself."

"Guess, first, what has brought me here."



JOHN LOWERED HIS VOICE

"How can I possibly guess? I am not a thought-reader."

"Well, I will tell you then. It is remorse."

"Remorse?"

"Yes; for the way in which I spoke to you yesterday at the Terminus Hotel."

"Oh! Then you admit you were a little too hasty?"

"Indeed I do, and I regret it deeply. But don't let us say anything more about that. Tell me, Victoria, you would like us to get married?"

"How can you ask such a thing?"

"I am right, then, in saying you would like it to be as soon as possible?"

"Oh, yes! At once; immediately."

"Oh, no! That is too soon. It's no good thinking of that."

"So much the worse."

"The only thing we can do is to fix the date of the ceremony as early as possible."

"But how can we?"

"Ah, that is my secret! I will tell you, however, for I want to make you forget how I parted from you yesterday." And John, lowering his voice and look-

ing round as if he feared to be overheard, continued, "You are quite sure Miss Betty has not returned?"

"Quite; because this is the only door she could come in by. But why all this mystery?"

"Because I have a most grave revelation to make."

Frightened at the very mysterious tone which her friend John had assumed during the last few minutes, the prudent Victoria drew back a step or two in spite of herself.

"Have you assassinated someone?" she cried.

"Oh, no! calm yourself! not yet!"

"Not yet!"

There was silence for a few seconds before John continued in a very low voice—

"I know how you missed getting that forged Brahmapootra stamp yesterday. For it was bad, as bad as could be, and my master was had for his two hundred dollars. But my time has not been wasted, for Miss Betty set her spies upon me a little too late. In fact, I have the real, true, and authentic stamp myself, and Mr. Keniss knows nothing about it."

"What! what!" cried Victoria.

"Yes, my dear, I have it, and here is the proof." And he opened his watch-case and exhibited the stamp which his master had given him.

"But," said Victoria a little defiantly, "how do you prove it is the right one?"

"Oh, there is quite a history attached to it, but it would take too long to tell you."

"But then—"

"It is enough for you to know that, profiting by my freedom of action and without saying anything to Mr. Keniss, I had undertaken researches on my own account. By an unlooked-for chance I just happened to get on the right scent. I was passing along the Place de l'Opéra the other day when an old gentleman suddenly fell under a carriage in front of me. I threw myself upon him and dragged him up, happily unhurt. 'Who are you?' he asked, after thanking me. 'John Cockburn,' I returned modestly. 'Very good. Here is my card; come and see me to-morrow morning at the Grand Hotel, where I am staying, and I shall be happy to show my gratitude by doing anything in my power for you.' I took the card and read the name, and what was my stupefaction, joy, and delight to discover that I had just saved the life of the chief cook of the Maharajah of Brahmapootra!"

"Get along with you."

"It's quite true, Victoria. The next morning hurried off to the Grand Hotel without saying any thing of the adventure to Mr. Keniss, and was introduced, with all the honours due to my rank, to the Indian whose carcass I had had the unlooked-for honour of preserving. 'In what way can I recompense you?' said he. 'Give me a stamp that belong to your master, and that I want badly for my collection,' replied I. 'I will see if I can get it for you,' said he. 'The Maharajah will arrive in two days' time so you can come again three days hence, and if he has the stamp I will ask him for it, and as he cannot refuse his cook anything he will be sure to give it me, and will hand it on to you in payment of the debt of gratitude I owe you.' So three days afterwards I returned to the Grand Hotel and came into possession of the stamp that Miss Betty Scott and Mr. William Keniss are both so anxiously seeking, and which the might search for to the end of their days if I didn't make up my mind to give it to one or the other of the two rivals."

(To be continued.)

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

News from Mysore

BANGALORE, June 16th, 1905.

The Stamps of Gwalior

A FEW weeks ago I mentioned that Gwalior would be "simplified" in my next letter. Unfortunately, Gwalior has rarities at which the beginner will have to "look and long," as they very seldom come his way. In the first place the rare issue of 1885 is listed in three divisions in the standard Catalogue, but the advanced collector, or even the specialist, will be lucky indeed to possess Nos. 1-19 complete. The three divisions depend on the space between the two lines of the overprint, and also in the length of the Hindi inscription. Apparently the guardian angel of Philately interfered and would not allow complete sets of each variety, but the $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, and 2 annas exist in all three sets. The varieties of the length of the Hindi inscription exist on the same sheet, and are not, therefore, distinct issues. The rarity is the $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas with the long overprint, but the 6 annas, 8 annas, and 1 rupee of both varieties are rare stamps.

Omitting the space and length varieties this issue stands thus:—

- (1) $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green.
- (2) 1 " brown-purple.
- (3) $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, sepia.
- (4) 2 " blue.
- (5) 4 " green.
- (6) 6 " bistre.
- (7) 8 " mauve.
- (8) 1 rupee, grey.

The Red Surcharge

Later in 1885 a red surcharge came out with the English and Hindi inscriptions close together, but here again there are two lengths of the Hindi overprint, the longer variety being again the rarer. There were only four values.

- (9) $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green.
- (10) 2 annas, blue.
- (11) 4 " green.
- (12) 1 rupee, grey.

The Third Issue

At the end of 1885 the entire series of British-Indian stamps appeared with a similar overprint, but in *black*. In this case, however, the short inscription is much rarer than the long, with the exception of the 9 pies value. The specialist likes to get these stamps in pairs, showing the two varieties side by side, but he is very lucky indeed to show half of the number in this condition. The 1 r., bicoloured, and the 2, 3, and 5 rupees exist with the long surcharge only, and the 8 annas with the short surcharge is only found in the old shade—*dull* mauve. The young collector need not bother about the length of an overprint in an outlandish character, which he will probably never read unless fate decrees that one day he will write the mystic letters "I.C.S." after his name. So Nos. 28 to 71 of Stanley Gibbons Catalogue become:—

1885-1902.

- (13) 3 pies, carmine.
- (14) 3 " grey.
- (15) $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green.
- (16) $\frac{1}{2}$ " pea-green.
- (17) 9 pies, carmine.
- (18) 1 anna, brown-purple.
- (19) 1 " carmine.

- (20) $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, sepia.
- (21) 2 " blue.
- (22) 2 " violet.
- (23) $2\frac{1}{2}$ " green.
- (24) $2\frac{1}{2}$ " blue.
- (25) 3 " orange.
- (26) 4 " olive-green.
- (27) 6 " bistre-brown.
- (28) 8 " mauve.
- (29) 12 " brown on red.
- (30) 1 " grey.
- (31) 1 " carmine and green.
- (32) 2 " yellow-brown and carmine.
- (33) 3 " green and brown.
- (34) 5 " violet and ultramarine.

It is absolutely necessary to have specimens of the $\frac{1}{2}$ a., green, and $\frac{1}{2}$ a., pea-green, as these are as distinct issues as the 3 pies, carmine, and 3 pies, grey. They were *ordered* in the new colour, but it is not necessary for the beginner to bother about the 8 annas, dull mauve, and 8 annas, aniline mauve, as they were not specially indented for in different colours.

The errors GWALICR for GWALIOR are of secondary interest to all but the specialist. There is one error, however, which must go into the simplified list, *i.e.* the inverted overprint.

- (35) 3 pies, carmine.

The Service Stamps

The Service stamps will puzzle the beginner, as they do not bear any English overprint. There are eleven errors which may be comfortably ignored until all the normal stamps have been obtained. The list of normal stamps stands:—

1895-1902.

- (36) 3 pies, carmine.
- (37) 3 " grey.
- (38) $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green.
- (39) $\frac{1}{2}$ " pea-green.
- (40) 1 " purple-brown.
- (41) 1 " carmine.
- (42) 2 annas, blue.
- (43) 2 " violet.
- (44) 4 " olive-green.
- (45) 8 " mauve.
- (46) 1 rupee, carmine and green.

The above list contains all the Gwalior stamps of the Queen series which are of primary importance, and contains only forty-six stamps in place of the 101 given in the Catalogue.

The Indian 6 annas 8 pies Stamp of 1866-7

I recently called attention to the comparative rarity of this stamp. A contemporary (*E.W.S.N.*), on discussing this stamp, states that very few people seem to require it, and questions whether the advance in price in the new Catalogue is justified. Of course it is no use pricing a stamp that nobody wants at a prohibitive price, but the question is, "Why do collectors not want it?" and I am quite sure that the reason, in many instances, is not that they already possess a fine copy. Here is a little piece of advice to all collectors, beginners or otherwise—See that you have a really good specimen of this stamp before the price rises again, and if you are doubting the soundness of this advice make a round of the dealers and see how many good specimens you can find.

E. W. WETHERELL.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President : H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
Hon. Sec. : J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.
Meetings : 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.
Annual Subscription : Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season 1904-5 was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 12th May, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present : E. D. Bacon, Herbert R. Oldfield, R. B. Yardley, Edward J. Nankivell, T. Maycock, A. W. Maclean, L. W. Fulcher, A. J. Warren, A. D. Ferguson, A. Bagshawe, W. Corfield, Franz Reichenheim, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox.

The chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th April were read and signed as correct. The Honorary Secretary announced that he had received from the Scott Stamp and Coin Company a pamphlet upon the stamps of Panama by Mr. J. N. Luff, and the Honorary Librarian was directed to acknowledge receipt with thanks in the usual way.

The members then proceeded to the election of Mr. Albert Naish, proposed by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg and seconded by the Honorary Secretary, who after ballot was declared duly elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Yardley then read further notes upon the stamps of the first British occupation of the Transvaal, and gave a display of stamps illustrating the various points indicated by him.

The notes related mainly to the various settings of the surcharges, which had been most carefully worked out by Mr. Yardley.

A vote of thanks to him for his notes and display was moved by Mr. Fulcher, seconded by Mr. Bacon, and carried unanimously, and the proceedings shortly afterwards terminated.

THE sixteenth meeting of the season 1904-5, being the annual general meeting of the Society, was held at 4, Southampton Row, W.C., on Friday the 26th May, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Members present : Robert Ehrenbach, Herbert R. Oldfield, Thomas William Hall, Percy de Worms, Rudolph Frenz, A. W. Maclean, W. Schwabacher, T. Maycock, Arthur W. Chambers, A. C. Emerson, Douglas Ellis, B. D. Knox, A. Bagshawe, W. Corfield, L. W. Fulcher, C. Neville Biggs, Franz Reichenheim, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the Vice-President and the Honorary Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Robert Ehrenbach, and the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th May were read and signed as correct.

A letter was read from Mr. Bacon intimating that his health had suffered from overwork, and that consequently he was unable to attend, and the intimation was received with great regret.

It was resolved that the meetings for the season 1905-6 should be held at 4, Southampton Row, and that the same should commence on the 13th October next.

It was also resolved, on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Fulcher, that the annual dinner should be held on the 12th October at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, if a suitable room could be obtained for that evening, and that the arrangements should be left in the hands of the Dinner Committee, consisting of Messrs. Biggs, Ehrenbach, Oldfield, and Wickham Jones.

The Hon. Secretary then proceeded to read his report on the work of the Society for the past year, and Mr. Hall moved, and Mr. H. R. Oldfield seconded, a resolution to the effect that the report be received

and published in the *London Philatelist* in the usual way, and that a sincere vote of thanks be accorded to the Hon. Secretary for the able manner in which such report had been prepared by him. The resolution was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Chambers then presented the report of himself and his co-Auditor, Mr. Maycock, with summaries of the accounts, and on the motion of Mr. Fulcher, seconded by Mr. Reichenheim, and carried unanimously, the same were received and adopted, and a vote of thanks accorded to the Auditors and to the Hon. Treasurer for their services.

The members then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following result :—President : H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, K.G.; Vice-President : The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, K.T.; Hon. Secretary : J. A. Tilleard; Hon. Treasurer : C. N. Biggs; Hon. Assistant-Secretary : H. R. Oldfield; Hon. Librarian : L. W. Fulcher; Members of Council : E. D. Bacon, M. P. Castle, J.P. (Hon. Vice-President), C. J. Daun, R. Ehrenbach, T. W. Hall, L. L. R. Hausburg, C. E. McNaughtan, F. Reichenheim, R. B. Yardley.

Herts Philatelic Society

President : F. Reichenheim, Esq.
Secretary : H. A. Slade, Esq., "Nine-Fields," St. Albans.
Meetings : 4, Southampton Row, W.C., Third Tuesdays.
Subscription : 5s. annually.

MEMBERS of and others interested in the above Society are requested to kindly note the recent alteration in the place of meeting, and also in the Secretary's address, which are henceforth as above. A promising programme is being prepared for next season, and names of new members have already been received for election at the first meeting in October next.

The Junior Philatelic Society

President : Fred J. Melville.
Secretary : H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.
Meetings : Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription : 1s. 6d.

AT the June monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Junior Philatelic Society the following new members were elected. In view of the number of applications still being received, the Committee has decided to accept subscriptions now at the annual rate of 1s. 6d. for the ensuing fifteen months till October, 1906.

The new members are : Thomas L. Gray, Stockwell; F. Brewer, Saxmundham; F. J. A. Hall, Peterboro', Canada; Edward R. Elliott, Towcester; Master W. J. Hartley, Dublin; E. J. Lewis, Forest Hill, S.E.; Percy Mercer, Edinburgh; Leon de Raay, Amsterdam; J. H. Andrews, New York; the Rev. A. L. Sharpe, Shizuoka, Japan; H. F. B. Brett-Smith, Uttoxeter; L. Bristow, Stratford-on-Avon; G. A. Foster, Ponders End; Vivian Miles, Swindon; B. A. M. Cooper, Bournemouth; Rev. R. W. Menzie, Barbados, W.I.; W. E. Imeson, Mitcham; Miss E. M. Webb, Littlehampton.

Durban and District Society

President : J. Wallace-Bradley.
Secretary : A. Gutttesden, 25, Castle Arcade, Durban.
Meetings : 25, Castle Arcade, Durban.
Annual Subscription : Seniors, 5s.; Juniors, 2s. 6d.

A MEETING of the above Society was held early in June at their rooms, 25, Castle Arcade. The attendance, as a result of the notice convening the meeting, gives good promise for the future prosperity and use-

fulness of the Society. Mr. J. Wallace-Bradley was elected chairman, and his remarks enlightened all present as to the benefits to be derived by members of a philatelic society. The objects of the Society were the study of matters appertaining to Philately (or stamp collecting), the drawing together of local collectors, and the intercommunication with philatelists in South Africa and abroad, the detection and prevention of forgeries and fraud, and the encouragement of non-collectors to become amateurs of Philately. Rules were discussed, and interesting debates followed. The basis of the Society's exchange provided a long argument, but, in the end, Stanley Gibbons Catalogue was decided on as the standard for all exchanges. A disquisition by the Secretary, Mr. A. Guttesen, on Philately, its meaning and advantages, was extremely interesting, and he pointed out why stamp collecting should be the foremost hobby, it being the most interesting and educative of pastimes. As an investment it was second to none. He instanced one occasion where twopenny was paid for a Mauritius "Post Office" stamp in 1847: it was sold for £1,450 in 1904. Again, one penny stamp and one twopenny stamp of the same issue, after they had done their duty on letters, were sold in 1897 for the enormous sum of £1,920, and several other stamps that cost only one penny were now worth hundreds of pounds. These are a few of the good investments in postage stamps.

In the rules of the Society the main feature seems the moderate membership subscription, namely, 5s. per annum for senior members, and 2s. 6d. per annum for junior philatelists. Lady members are exempt from subscription.

The Secretary then announced that he was prepared to accept subscriptions from and give books of rules to those desirous of joining the Society, adding that the next meeting would be held at the rooms of the Society on Tuesday, June 20th, at 7.30 p.m., when all interested in Philately are invited to attend.

Johannesburg Philatelic Society

A MEETING of the Philatelic Society was held on Tuesday the 21st March, at the Masonic Temple, Plein Street. Mr. W. Neuburger occupied the chair, and there were present eleven members and seven visitors. Several letters from correspondents were read. Mr. A. Cohen presented 350 stamps to the Society's collection to the value of £9. Mr. Neuburger moved a vote of thanks to the donor, which was passed unanimously. Mr. A. J. Cohen gave an excellent display of a nearly complete collection of South American issues, for which a vote of thanks was accorded him. A small auction then took place, which resulted in a small sum being realised on behalf of the Society.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Auctions

SOME notable stamps were included in Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's sale on the 27th and 28th June, 1905. The young collector may never hope to include great rarities in his collection, but he is nevertheless interested in reading about the prices that such stamps fetch in public sales, so I append a few:—

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| Bulgaria, 1882, 5 st., rose, error of colour, unused, in mint state | £ | s. | d. |
| Great Britain, 1876, 4d., deep vermilion, plate 16, very few copies known to exist, a little heavily cancelled | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1882-3, £1, brown-lilac on blued paper, unused, slightly creased and soiled | 20 | 10 | 0 |
| Servia, 1866, 2 paras, green on rose, error of colour, unused | 7 | 15 | 0 |
| Cape of Good Hope, 1861, woodblocks, 1d., scarlet, a block of three and a single, used together on entire original | 29 | 8 | 0 |
| Gambia, 1880, wmk. CC, 2d., rose, complete unused sheet of fifteen | 2 | 5 | 0 |
| Northern Nigeria, 1900, Queen's Heads, ½d. to 10s., complete, unused | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| Southern Nigeria, 1903-4, King's Head, single CA, unused | 3 | 10 | 0 |

Greece

COMING to Greece in our conversation about the prices to be found in the new Gibbons, Part II., I find that the reviser has passed very lightly over most of the issues of this country. In the Paris prints of the first issue the 1 l., deep chocolate on cream, unused, has been raised from 10s. to 15s., and in the 1862-70 series the 10 l., orange on blue, unused, has been dropped from 35s. to 30s.

Hawaii

PASSING over the specialist rarities, I note that the 1 dol., unused, of 1883-5 series has been raised from 40s. to 50s.

Hayti

THE prices of unused copies of the stamps of the first issue of this republic seem to be as changeable as the Government.

| 1881. Imperf. | 1897 | 1899 | 1900 | 1902 | 1903 | 1904 | 1905 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., vermilion | 0 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 2 c., purple | 10 | 10 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 3 c., bistre | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 | 10 | 10 |
| 5 c., green | 26 | 36 | 40 | — | — | 50 | 76 |
| 7 c., blue | 20 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 16 | 16 |
| 20 c., brown | 76 | 76 | 150 | 200 | 200 | 160 | 200 |

The 20 c. of 1882, unused, has been raised from 6s. to 8s.

Holland

THE 15 c., imperf., of 1852 has been raised from 12s. to 15s. All three values, unused, of the 1864 issue have gone up in price: the 5 c. from 4s. to 5s., 10 c. from 8s. to 10s.; and the 15 c. from 18s. to 20s. The 2 g. 50 c. of 1891-7, unused, has been dropped from 15s. to 12s.; but used copies have been raised from 3s. to 4s., and used copies of the 5 g. have been dropped from 7s. 6d. to 6s.

Dutch Indies

THE 10 c. of 1864, imperf., unused, has been raised from 12s. to 15s., and the same stamp of the following year, perforated, unused, has gone up from 12s. 6d. to 15s.

Sicily

DESPITE the attention which has of late been given to the stamps of Sicily, consequent on the country being specialised by leading philatelists and the publication of Dr. Diena's fine work, there is but one important change of prices, and that is in the 50 gr., which has been raised from 10s. unused, and 50s. used, to 15s. and 60s.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

F. J. M. (Brixton).—It is curious that we should have included in our Answers to Correspondents on page 16 a reply under the initials "F. J. M." and "Brixton," which, though the initials and place of residence of Mr. Melville, referred to quite another collector. Mr. Melville writes:—

"On account of the similarity of the initials and address in the answer to 'F. J. M. (Brixton)' in your columns, a number of my correspondents and acquaintances have mistaken me for your inquirer. May I ask, therefore, that you will be good enough to state your correspondent was *not* myself, and that I never applied the term 'Little Moguls' to my good friends the juniors, consequently I cannot supply the definition of the term which I am being asked for?"

J. H. B. (Battersea).—Your description is not sufficient to enable us to identify the stamps you inquire about. But you can help yourself by turning them up in the Catalogue.

L. B. (Stratford-on-Avon).—What is known as the open "5" in the July, 1899, issue of Gibraltar, is a variety that occurs in 5 c., 25 c., 50 c., and 75 c.; the small "1" occurs only in the 25 c. on 2d. and 2½d., and the broken "N" on the same values. We have in our collection a horizontal strip of three of the 25 c. on 2d.; the centre stamp has the variety open "5" and also the short "1."

B. R. (Wandsworth).—We believe dealers are asking the same price for both 6d., lilac and mauve and lilac and carmine, of the 1887-94 series of Lagos. No one seems to be able to say yet which is the scarcer. The variety is a recent discovery, so far as the general philatelic public is concerned; but, in common with other specialists, we have had the two varieties in our collection for some years. As we have the mauve with the control number of the first printing, we are enabled to say that the lilac and carmine is the later printing, and, therefore, should be the commoner of the two.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII., or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, 7½×9½; available for mounting stamps, 6½×8½. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 5

Whole No. 30

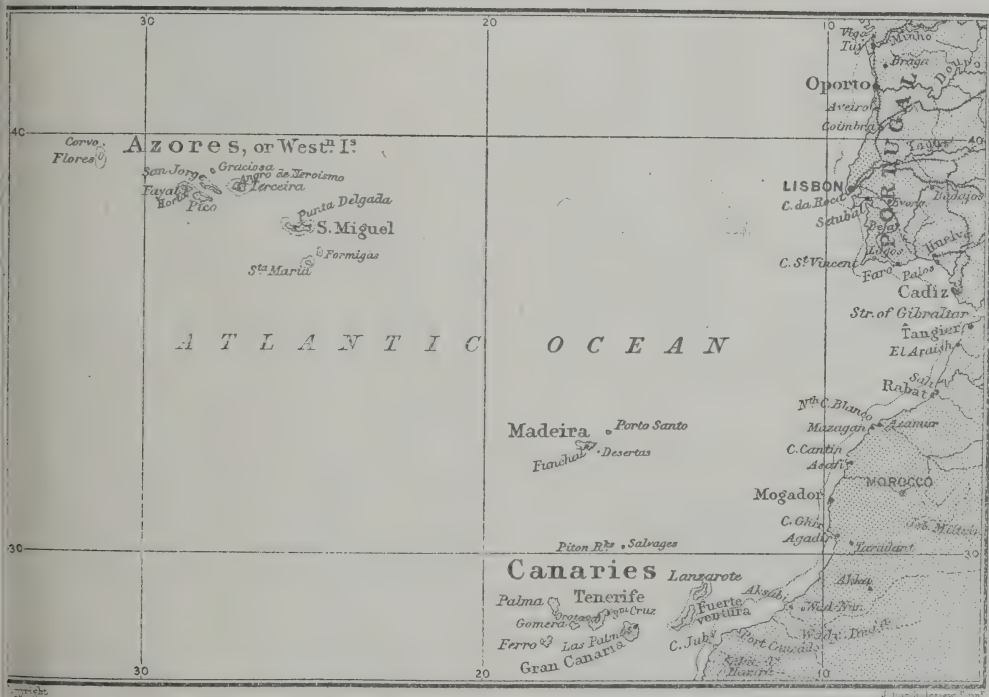
29 JULY, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Angra



ANGRA is a strongly fortified seaport, and is the capital of the archipelago of the Azores. It is situated at the head of a deep bay on the south coast of the island of Terceira. It is a station for ships *en route* between Portugal and Brazil and the East Indies. It is the seat of a bishop, is said to be well

built but dirty, and is credited with five churches.

The population is stated to be 10,000, of whom many are Jews. A considerable trade is done in exports of wine, flax, and cheese.

The full name of the town is Angra do Heroísmo, the words "do heroísmo" being

added as a compliment to its citizens for their loyal conduct in the struggle against Don Miguel in 1830-2.

The Greville *Memoirs* contain the following reference to this matter:—

"In December, 1828, an expedition, consisting of 652 Portuguese refugees of the party of the Queen, sailed from England for Terceira in four vessels, under the command of Count Saldanha. Terceira held for the Queen, and arms and ammunition had previously been sent them from England. The British Government ordered Captain Walpole, of the *Ranger*, to stop this expedition off Terceira, which he did by firing a gun into Saldanha's ship. The ground taken by the Duke of Wellington in defence of this measure was his resolution to maintain the neutrality of England between the two parties then contending for the crown of Portugal; but the proceeding was vehemently attacked in Parliament and elsewhere."

Its Philatelic History

It seems strange that the capital of the Azores should have a series of postage stamps to itself apart from the general stamps of the Azores. But the explanation lies in the fact that the Azores are divided into three administrative districts, viz. Ponta Delgada, Angra do Heroismo, and Horta.

It has had only two sets of stamps: the first in 1892, with portrait of Dom Carlos, of the then colonial type, and the second in 1897-8 with later portrait of Dom Carlos.

1892. Design portrait of Dom Carlos in current colonial type.



(To be continued.)

THE PHILATELIST'S COLLECTING BOOK.

For the coat pocket. With patent fastening to flap. Size, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Handsomely bound in Art Cloth. Each book contains 12 pages, having four strips of linen, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide, arranged horizontally, glued at the bottom edge and with the upper one open, for the safe retention and preservation of recent purchases or duplicate. A large pocket is also provided at the back for Envelopes or Stamps in bulk. In daily use by leading London Collectors. No. 17, post-free, 2s. 7d. No. 18—oblong, 24 pages, 6 strips on each page, interleaved with strong glazed paper to prevent rubbing—post-free, 5s. 4d.; abroad, 5s. 6d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 reis, yellow | | 0 9 | 0 1 |
| 10 „ mauve | | 0 3 | — |
| 15 „ red-brown | | 0 9 | — |
| 20 „ lavender | | 0 6 | — |
| 25 „ dark green | | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 75 „ rose | | 0 9 | 1 0 |
| 80 „ pale green | | 1 0 | — |
| 100 „ brown on yellow | | 1 0 | 0 9 |
| 150 „ carmine on rose | | 2 0 | — |
| 200 „ blue on blue | | 2 0 | — |
| 300 „ blue on brown | | 3 0 | — |

1897-8. Design later portrait of Dom Carlos in current general colonial type. The name and figures of value in black on all values except the 500 r., on which they are in carmine.



| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 2½ reis, grey | | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 „ orange-red | | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 „ green | | 0 1 | — |
| 15 „ chocolate | | 0 3 | 0 2 |
| 15 „ deep green | | 0 3 | 0 2 |
| 20 „ deep lilac | | 0 2 | — |
| 25 „ blue-green | | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 25 „ carmine | | 0 2 | — |
| 50 „ blue | | 0 4 | — |
| 65 „ steel-blue | | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 75 „ rose | | 0 6 | — |
| 80 „ mauve | | 1 0 | — |
| 100 „ blue on blue | | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 115 „ brown-red on rose | | 1 0 | — |
| 130 „ sepia on pale yellow | | 1 3 | — |
| 150 „ brown on buff | | 1 0 | — |
| 180 „ slate on pale pink | | 1 6 | — |
| 200 „ mauve on flesh | | 1 3 | — |
| 300 „ blue on rose | | 1 9 | — |
| 500 „ black on azure | | 10 0 | — |

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 52.)

OUR survey of "Stamps without a Name" has come to an end. This, however, does not complete our study of the designs of adhesives. We have yet to consider the inscriptions and attempt, as far as lies in our power, to throw some light on those stamps the inscriptions on which are a source of no little trouble to the average beginner. For this purpose I have thought it the wiser plan to break up my subject under four headings, as follows:—

1. Name of Country.
2. Indications denoting the use of the Stamps.
3. Values expressed in Numbers or in Words.
4. Moneys in use in the Principal Countries.

1. Name of the Country

In many cases the name is difficult to recognise. This difficulty is due to the fact that the name is printed in the language of the country, an unknown quantity to most beginners. The difficulty is enhanced when the inscription appears in some abbreviated form, or, worst of all, when the name is represented by some mystic signs which require a great deal of imagination on the part of the average Britisher to construe into an alphabet. Let me proceed in due order to cases in point. Take the Austrian issue of 1883. A design printed for use in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1879 was made to do duty as the basis of a new Austrian issue in 1883. The two-headed eagle was overprinted in black with the inscription KAIS. KONIGL. OESTERR. POST., which reads

AUSTRIA.



1883.

AUSTRIAN POST OFFICES
IN TURKISH EMPIRE.



1883.

"Imperial Royal Austrian Post." Those stamps issued in this series for the Austrian Post Offices in the Turkish Empire were overprinted with the inscription, "Imper. Reg. Posta-Austr.," which had the same meaning as before.

In 1890 the design was changed from that of the Arms of the Empire to the Head of the Emperor facing the left. This design, with slight modifications in different issues, has lasted to the present day. The inscription also remained the same, except that, owing to a change of currency in 1899, the "kreuzer" gave place to the "heller" values.

In the "Eagle and Crown" and "Crowned Emperor" series of Hungary, 1900-1, the inscription MAGYAR KIR POSTA reads "Royal Hungarian Post." The values run from 1 to 60 filler and from 1 to 5 korona.

HUNGARY.



1900-1.

Corean stamps ought to become a profitable source of investment in the near future. Three of them are inscribed in native characters only. The rest have KOREA or KOREAN POST in Roman characters, and are therefore easily identified.

COREA.



1885.



1900.

The Corean issues of 1902, 1903 have inscriptions in French: POSTES DE CORÉE, or POSTES IMPERIALES DE CORÉE.

The stamps of the Danish West Indies only differ from those of the mother country in the inscription. It needs little imagination on the part of the beginner to translate *DANSK VEST INDIEN*. However, to save him this slight mental exertion, we will give the English equivalent. It is "Danish West Indian."

The stamps of Iceland bear a close resemblance to those of Denmark, of which country it forms a part. The first issue appeared in 1873. *ISLAND*, *i.e.* "Iceland," appears in the upper part of the band.

ICELAND.



1873.

In 1815 the Ionian Islands came under British protection by the terms of the Treaty of Paris. They were ceded to Greece in 1864. Five years prior to the secession a series of three stamps was issued. The design shows the head of Queen Victoria surrounded by an upright oval garter, on which is inscribed *IONIKON KRATOS*, *i.e.* "Ionian State."

IONIAN ISLANDS.



1850.

The first German state to adopt adhesive stamps was Bavaria. The first issue was a numeral series. The inscription on the accompanying illustration reads "Bavarian Free (Stamp). One Kreuzer."

BAVARIA.



1849.

In 1902 Bulgaria issued a series in which the head of Prince Ferdinand figures as the central design. The inscription is in Slavonic characters, and reads "Bulgarian Post. 10 Stotinki."

BULGARIA.



1902.

The Duchy of Brunswick joined the stamp-issuing countries in 1852. It ceased to issue stamps on joining the North German Confederation in 1868. The second issue of this state has been already described amongst the "Stamps without a Name." The first and third issues have the name inscribed in German, *BRAUNSCHWEIG*. The central design in both is that of the horse of Brunswick galloping to the left, with a ducal coronet above. The thaler, equal to about three shillings, was divided into 30 silbergroschen. One silbergroschen = 10 pfennige.

BRUNSWICK.



1852.



1865.

(To be continued.)

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of Stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on Sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5,000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

On the Same Errand

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

MANY years ago I was specialising a big country, and an intimate friend was also going in hot and strong for the same stamps. In fact, I had started him on the same track for the sake of his companionship.

We met regularly and we compared notes, and we worked away like a couple of Trojans at our favourite country. For a long time my friend was in leading strings, but after I had taken him gently through the intricacies, and explained the complexities, he gathered strength and confidence, and was a real help in discussing and solving not a few of the knotty problems that made our chosen country more than usually difficult.

In stamp collecting the pleasure is greatly heightened if you can get a few cronies of like persuasion, and can meet to compare notes and discuss difficulties, arrangements, etc.

Well, my friend and I did all that, and we did more. We kept a joint eye on the auctions, and whenever any desirable lots in our country were included in a sale, one or other of us would inspect the lots and report thereon, decide prices and limits, and attend to buy.

We never bid against each other. We were the principal buyers in our particular country, but we did our buying unobtrusively. Very few knew much about those stamps, and no auctioneer was sufficiently acquainted with them to venture on an attempt to run us up.

Consequently we got many a grand bargain which has subsequently helped to keep us both out of the workhouse.

We did the business fair and square. When we got a mixed lot of stamps at an auction we "tossed up" for first pick, and then we took turn and turn. And I can tell you that pick and pick business was a case of Greek meeting Greek. But what lovely things we got in those days!

I remember in one of the very first auctions we dropped on a large mixed lot that included fourteen grand copies

of a variety that had been chronicled, but which we nevertheless regarded as legendary, for we had never seen a copy, nor had we ever come across anyone who had possessed the variety. The lot fell to us for a few shillings. To-day each one of those stamps would fetch many pounds.

Then we wrote to dealers, English and Continental, and we divided our pickings of the stocks of Europe on terms and at prices that to-day awaken many regrets that we did not buy up all that was sent us—lock, stock, and barrel. After picking the cream, we returned what was left. Those remainders, in the pink of mint condition, with never even a hinge to mar the spotless beauty of their original gum, that we were offered for a few francs or marks! To-day every one of those francs, or marks, would mean a pound sterling.

For years we divided the spoils, and played the parts of David and Jonathan.

But, alas! in time my friend began to nose about on his own account. He wandered off into philatelic side streets without even telling me that he was going for a walk. And he picked up amongst the garbage of the alleys and lanes many a tit-bit that he did not share with me, and I was sorely troubled.

We grew less confidential and less mutually helpful. And when we met we began to studiously avoid even the mention of our favourite country. We inquired for the various members of each other's family as of yore, and we lunched together as in the days gone by, but somehow our old favourite topic was gradually tabooed. There grew up an ever-present suspicion that the other had got hold of something he would rather not discuss, and so we considerably and delicately avoided being too inquisitive.

Thus in time we drifted apart, till at last we even avoided each other. The veneer of our philatelic partnership existed, but it only existed to diplomatically cover

the anxieties of separate enterprises and a quiet, but keen, competition.

One day, when my friend had almost become a stranger to me, I walked into an auction room, and glancing round caught sight of him almost hidden behind a screen. Our eyes met, and we each understood why the other was there.

We shook hands, and then, as if no cloud had obscured or disturbed the even tenor of our philatelic friendship, I said in tones of surprise as if I had thought he had gone clean out of collecting—

"Hullo, old chap, *you* here?"

"Yes," he said; and then, after an awkward pause, "I suppose we are both on the same errand?"

"I suppose so," said I.

"Well, what's it to be?" said he somewhat savagely.

"What's what to be?" said I.

"It's no use beating about the bush. You know you want to nail this sheet, and I suppose you thought you'd get it all to yourself?"

"Yes, I am sorry you are here."

"Well, I am going to have this sheet," said he emphatically.

"So am I."

"Humph!"

Then there was another long pause,

broken by the knowledge that we were nearing the coveted lot.

"Well, what are you going to do?" said he.

"We can't do the pick and pick business with a sheet," said I, "and it's no good bidding against each other."

"Then what do you propose?" said he.

"We had better buy the sheet, and then 'toss up' who shall have it."

"Which means that, with your usual luck, you'll get the sheet!" he grumbled.

"Can you suggest any other way? If we bid against each other we shall pay through the nose for our disagreement. We have neither of us any right to ask the other to stand aside, and we neither of us have a ghost of an intention to stand aside. But here comes the lot! What is it to be?"

With a very bad grace he agreed to "toss," and the sheet fell to us for a mere song—for, in fact, 20s.

Then we tossed, and, alas! it turned out as he had prophesied. I walked off with the sheet, bidding him to remember me to all at home.

Some years afterwards, when Mrs. Cornelius wanted a new rig-out, I sold that sheet to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for £15.

BY-PATHS OF PHILATELY

PICTURE STAMPS AND METHODS OF ARRANGEMENT

By H. R. OLDFIELD

(Continued from page 54.)

WE now come to one of the debatable classes, namely—

7. Allegorical and Fancy Figures



I have not yet sufficiently considered the question of arrangement.

You find among them figures emblematic of Race, such as Britannia; or of a god or goddess, such as Mercury; or illustrating a present-day type, as in the stamps of the Congo State. I think that the stamps which illustrate religious emblems will probably be included as a subdivision of this class.

8. Arms

This is a large class, and presents some difficulties as to what should be included in it, for while there are many such—as in Austria, Bosnia, Baden, Bavaria, Wurtem-

berg, Sweden, Dominican Republic, as to which there is no doubt—there are other stamps whose claims for inclusion require



a longer consideration than I have yet been able to give.

9. Maps

At the present time there are not many stamps which fall into this class. Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Panama, Vene-

zuela, Canada, and New South Wales very nearly exhaust the list.



10. Portraits

I am not prepared to say that this class ought strictly to be included in a Picture Stamp collection, but there is no doubt about the interest which attaches to it, and I personally have decided to collect them. I will not venture at present, however, to lay down any scheme of arrangement. The subject is almost big enough for a paper and display to itself.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

How to Win Recruits

EVERY enthusiastic stamp collector naturally wants to get all his friends to collect, and many have been the suggestions which have been put forward from time to time as to the best way to go to work to make philatelic converts. Here are an American lady collector's ideas on the best *modus operandi*, as published in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* :—

Talk stamps often to your non-collecting friends—stopping just short of *boredom*. Tell them of the ever-recurring freshness of the pleasure you derive from the collecting, studying, and arranging of your stamps; tell them of the recreation and restful relief from business cares—from the routine of regular work—a recreation all the more pleasing and restful because it embodies just that amount of mental stimulus which appeals to a disciplined mind.

With them, touch on the money side of the question if necessary. Call attention to the fact that on U.S. stamps the sign of the grill, or the presence of a secret mark, may change the price of a stamp from cents to dollars—as an incentive to stamp study, and to hunting up old letters. Show a catalogue of several years ago, and a sixty-fourth, and point out the stamps that have increased materially in value.

Show copies of the best philatelic papers and catalogues of auction sales, and talk about how by keeping well-informed and buying judiciously, one may profit financially by his collection should the time ever come when he cared to realise on it. Find out some subject in which a friend, or acquaintance, is particularly interested, then, *incidentally* call his attention to a

stamp which touches on his favourite subject. Follow it up with other stamps as long as you can hold his interest.

I have a friend who is much interested in astronomy, and spends many hours over her favourite study. Repeated trials to interest her in Philately failed (it was "silly" to study stamps, she said) until one evening when I *happened* to show her the "Southern Cross" on a Brazilian stamp—this led to the study of other stamps, and to a whole evening pleasantly spent looking over my collection.

Now my astronomical friend is *almost* persuaded to start a collection of her own—indeed, she already has a collection of two fine stamps—Brazil A33 and A38.

And where is the subject which is not touched upon by some stamp? History, biography, mythology, heraldry, architecture, botany, zoology, ornithology, philology—we have them all on our stamps.

Finally, study human nature while you study stamps, and watch for any opportunity to get in a little good work for Philately, knowing that if your friend becomes a devotee to your favourite hobby he will never lack for pleasant entertainment.

Collectors' Wives

THE predominant partner in the case of much-married collectors has to be reckoned with, but I have a never-failing way with Mrs. Cornelius, which I would recommend to much-married fellow-collectors. When there is a storm brewing over the inevitable question of extravagance in buying old postage stamps, and the predominant partner feels that the bit

of feminine extravagance to which she looked forward cannot be had because, as she asserts, of those old stamps, make a show of sacrificing some valuable duplicate to provide the coveted article. A judicious pursuit of this policy has quite won over Mrs. Cornelius. Indeed, the other day she quite startled me by saying she thought she would start collecting English herself. I had been a bit too lavish.

The Exhibition

I HEAR that the programme of the great International Philatelic Exhibition which is to be held in London in May next is almost ready for the printer. I shall scan it curiously for the new ideas that are said to be embodied in it in the matter of the grouping of the various countries. Anyway it cannot be said that the Committee have lost any time in getting out their *magnum opus*.

Safe Custody of Collections

I DON'T suppose my young friends of G.S.W. are much troubled about the safe custody of their collections. A locked drawer all to themselves will probably express the perfection of arrangements for most of them. But it will interest them to know what great collectors do with their great collections when they lock up their houses and go away with their families to the seaside. Many collections run into thousands of pounds.

Well, most collectors make their collections up into a nice parcel and take them to their bank where they keep their current account. The bank locks up the parcel in its strong room, and all is, generally, well with that collection when the collector returns to claim it.

But recently a collector who deposited

his valuable collection with his bank found that all was not well with his collection; on the contrary, it was practically ruined.

Whilst he was away the bank moved their valuables into a new strong room just completed. The new strong room evidently had not been allowed to dry up properly before use, and the consequence was that when the unfortunate stamp-collector opened his albums he found that his unused stamps were stuck down hard and fast with the damp.

He complained to the bank, but the bank-manager, who said he was himself a stamp-collector and knew all about such things, assured him it did not matter a bit, as he could soak them off and put on fresh gum!!

He did not go in for fresh gum, but he put the matter into his solicitor's hands, and when the bank heard what the claim for damage was likely to be they promptly informed the collector that he had used their strong room without payment for his own convenience, and that therefore they were not liable.

And I am told that it is a moot question whether a bank is liable in such a case for damages. I am further told that the question has never yet been properly decided in a court of law, and that no bank wishes it to go so far as a decision, that in fact most banks will prefer to compromise with an agreed sum for damages rather than face the greater trouble that would ensue from an adverse decision.

Another phase of the question is the fact that a Safe Deposit Company would be answerable for damage, and any trouble with a bank over the safe custody of customers' valuables would drive people in flocks to the great Safe Deposit Company vaults.

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Australian Commonwealth.—The *Sydney Mail* says:—

"The question of postage stamps, it is satisfactory to learn, has been under consideration by the Federal Government, and it is not improbable that before very long (departmental difficulties being overcome) we shall have an Australian issue. Whilst all Britons cherish with reverential respect the memory of her late Majesty, it is quite time that her effigy in little in this connection should give place to that of the reigning sovereign. Whether designs should be invited in England or limited to Australians is rather a moot point, but beyond all doubt there is much room for improvement upon those which we have had in New South Wales. Nothing can much exceed the ugliness of our 2½d. stamp, which presents a profile of Queen Victoria neither flattering, accurate, nor artistic, and having the figures '2½d.' apparently issuing from the mouth. In other cases effect has been marred by super-lavish ornamentation, or by essaying too much, as in the case of our Centennial penny stamp, upon which is a pretty view of Sydney, requiring, however, a microscope for its identification. The design should be classical, symmetrical, and simple."

Cuba.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* says:—

"We are indebted to Mr. Cormack, of Port Ewen, for first sight of the new Cuban stamps. They are printed from the old dies in slightly different colours and with "secret" marks to identify the work of the American Bank Note Company, the new printers. The stamps being printed on unwatermarked paper can easily be distinguished from the old issue. In the 2 cent stamps the foliage inside the ovals containing the figure 2 has been taken out."

We illustrate the old series here referred to, and we append their colours, which it is stated have been slightly altered.



1899.
1 cent, green.
2 cents, red.
3 " purple.
5 " blue.
10 " brown.

Dominican Republic.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* has received a new set of stamps for this country. The designs are the same as the set it superseded, the colours alone being changed.

½ centavo, black and orange.
1 " black and blue.
1 " black and lilac.
2 centavos, black and claret.
5 " black and green.
10 " black and olive.
20 " black and dark red.
1 peso, grey and black.

Guadeloupe.—We have received a full pictorial series for this French colony. The stamps are oblong in shape, and of the size of the current franc values of France. The low values up to 15 c. present a view of a street in a native town, the 20 c. to 75 c. a country station with palm trees and mountains in the distance, and the franc values contain a view of a town and harbour with shipping. The stamps are very rough specimens of engraving.



1 c., black on blue paper.
2 c., red-brown on buff paper.
4 c., pale brown on blue paper.
5 c., green.
10 c., carmine.
15 c., violet.



20 c., red on green.
25 c., blue.
30 c., black.
40 c., red on straw.
50 c., grey-green on straw.
75 c., carmine on bluish.
1 fr., black on green.
2 fr., carmine on yellow.
5 fr., blue on orange.

Jaipur.—*Ewen's Weekly* chronicles three new values of the chariot set.



Perry.

½ anna, blue.
1 anna, carmine.
2 annas, dark green.
4 " brown.
8 " puce.
1 rupee, yellow.

THE STAMP KING

by G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



VICTORIA HELD UP THE STAMP TRIUMPHANTLY

CHAPTER XV (continued)

How John is on the verge of discovering that he is hoist with his own petard

JOHN paused for want of breath. He had been telling the most absurd tale, knowing how often it happens that the greater the falsehood the better passes, and he was not much surprised to see how the astonishment there was in Victoria's questioning gaze.

"But why didn't you give the stamp to your master?" she asked.

"Well, I didn't like to—on your account. I felt sure you would never forgive me, and as we're going to marry each other, that wouldn't do, would it? So I have brought it to you to give to Miss Betty—only Mr. William must not know anything about it."

"How kind and generous you are!"

"Never mind compliments, for time presses. There is a steamer which starts from Havre to-morrow morning, and you had better persuade Miss Scott to go by it."

In fact, she *must* start for New York at once, for she stays a day longer in Paris Mr. Keniss may discover my treason, and that wouldn't be pleasant for me, you know."

"Yes, I see what you are afraid of, and I wouldn't have you get into trouble on any account after doing my mistress such a service. So I promise you I will persuade her to go this very evening."

"I can depend on you for that?"

"Yes, indeed you can."

But John saw that Victoria was not altogether eased at the idea of setting off immediately, so he began again in a peremptory tone—

"Yes, no doubt our wedding will have to be put off

a bit longer, but I promise you to hurry the matter up as soon as we come home, and it cannot be long before we do, as my master has no further reason for staying here. Moreover, you promised the other day to do whatever I asked you to, and here is your opportunity, so make the most of it."

At that moment the bell rang.

"That is Miss Betty!" cried Victoria. "Go into that room and stay there till I've let her in. She mustn't find you here, for you would have to go into the whole matter, and it would take too long."

"You are right. Good-bye, Victoria, till we meet again in New York."

"Oh dear, that is true! We shall not see each other again till we are in New York!"

"And then we will get married."

So Victoria hid her lover in the room she had indicated, and left him laughing in his sleeve at the trick he had just played upon her, until, after a few seconds, he heard the entrance door shut again, after which he warily gained the ante-room and hurried away without making his presence known to Miss Betty Scott. In fact, he was not sorry to escape an explanation with the young lady, who would certainly not be contented with the bare outline of the history he had just recounted to Victoria. But hearing it from Victoria she would probably believe it all, thinking that her maid had not understood all he said, or that she was repeating it incorrectly.

The matter turned out just as John had foreseen it would. Scarcely had Betty entered the sitting-room before Victoria began—

"I have something for you, Miss Betty."

"Something for me?"

"Yes, Miss Betty; can you guess what it is?"

"A letter, perhaps?"

"No, miss."

"A telegram?"

"No, Miss Betty."

"How can I possibly guess, then?"

"It is the stamp—the famous stamp! Look here!"

And Victoria opened her hand, in which the precious little piece of paper was firmly enclosed. Then she seized it between the thumb and first finger of the other hand, like a butterfly whose wings one is afraid



HE SAW THE TRAIN DISAPPEAR

of spoiling, and showed it triumphantly to her mistress.

"The Brahmapootra stamp!" exclaimed the latter, taking it from her. "Am I dreaming? But no, no! It is the stamp itself. Where did you find it? Who gave it you? But it must be a forgery, I think. Speak, Victoria, speak!"

And Victoria, able at last to get in a word, began a confused story, in which John and Mr. Keniss and the Maharajah's cook were all mixed up together. She spoke of the necessity of keeping the secret, and of a prompt departure the very next morning by the *Bretagne*. In fact, she spoke with so much energy and conviction that Betty, vanquished little by little, ended by saying—

"Certainly, certainly, we must start at once." And, without seeking further enlightenment, she rang all the bells, called up the hotel people, and had her

trunks strapped up in the twinkling of an eye. The little American had that very day received some money from her banker in New York, which enabled her to make such a rapid departure. But if she had been so easily persuaded, it was because she was determined not only to win her wager, but to win it brilliantly, and without giving any one at the Philatelic Club a chance of thinking there had been any compromise between her and her rival, and for this it was necessary that she should not go back to the same steamer with him.

Miss Scott could not control her delight, and laughed aloud as she thought of the discomfiture of William Keniss when he heard of the precipitate departure—and with the stamp!—of his lucky adversary, through the telegram she would have the wicked pleasure of sending him from Havre, at the very moment of going on board the steamer. The two women hurriedly dined, and, an hour later, the great omnibus carried them to the Gare Saint-Lazare, in time to catch the express which would land them in the morning at Havre, to cross by the *Bretagne*.

As for John, he had remained on sentry-duty in the Place Vendôme to judge of the success of his plot, and it would be impossible to depict his joy when he saw the luggage brought out and the two women getting into the omnibus. He ran behind it all the way to the station, and, hearing his two spies trotting heavily after him, said gaily—

"It is my turn to spy this time. Miss Scott never anticipated such a pursuit as this."

The crafty fellow followed them right into the station, and, as soon as he had seen the train disappear into the night, carrying away our two travellers, he returned to find Mr. Keniss, who was much astonished at his radiant visage and at the bursts of laughter with which he entered.

"Well, what is it now?" asked the young American.

"Oh, sir, it is really too amusing!"

"What is?"

"The way I have just paid our Miss Betty and Victoria. It is too comical!"

And John subsided into a chair, too overcome with delight to utter another word. But Mr. Keniss, perplexed at the strange behaviour of

his valet, insisted on an explanation. So John, in short sentences, constantly interrupted by bursts of laughter, told the whole story of his prowess, while William listened in freezing silence.

"And you have done that?" he said sternly, when John assured him that he had, with his own eyes, seen the two women get into the train for Havre.

"Why, yes, sir," said the valet, his ardour cooling a little.

"Then you are a nice fellow! A liar and a cheat!" John, who had expected a very different reception after such a service rendered, was mute with astonishment.

"My luggage and my coat, at once!" said Mr. Keniss in a ringing voice. "We must go by the very next train, and if we do not arrive in time to repair your infamy, I shall dismiss you for the villain that you are!"

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Scotch Letter

EDINBURGH, *July 8th, 1905.*

Auction Prices in Edinburgh

VIETNESS reigns in philatelic circles, the sunshine proving a greater attraction than stamps. But those who thought to get great bargains at the sale held here on the 1st inst. were disappointed, for, although the attendance was small, there were buyers for every recent lot. The "very unique" collection advertised by the auctioneers proved to be a very ordinary one, with some doubtful early Japanese. The most remarkable price, perhaps, was 14s. for a used Great Britain telegraph £1, brown-lilac, or 1s. less than Stanley Gibbons figure.

Forged O.W. Officials

One lot of O.W. King's Head were withdrawn owing to their being condemned as forged. There could be no doubt that the overprints were spurious, calculated to deceive experienced collectors, and several of the members of the Scottish Society are taking all possible steps to prevent such lots appearing in the sale catalogues. One member was offered a "choice" lot of such things, up to the 5d. value, in a jamcar, at a price indicating their character. Until the source of these weeds is discovered, and their distribution stopped, it behoves all collectors to be very wary in purchasing. If any readers of the *Weekly* can throw any light on this matter, he would be acting in the interests of our hobby were he to communicate with the President of the Scottish Society, Mr. John Walker, 3, Great King Street, Edinburgh.

New Stamp Shop in Edinburgh

Andrew Brown's new stamp shop in Edinburgh makes a very attractive display, if small. And I hear that a new firm of dealers is about to open a shop in one of the chief thoroughfares of Glasgow. Next season promises to be a record one in Scotland, and I expect these shop windows will attract many recruits to the ranks of collectors.

Foreign Stamps Looking Up

The Foreign Gibbons Catalogue is awaited with patience by many, and with impatience by a few. I have been struck with the large number of collectors who are getting their foreign countries filled, generally in the quiet. Colonials, of course, stand first, but foreign promise to make a much better second than they have made during the past few years.

T. A. M'INTYRE.

Our Italian Letter

ROME, *July 12th, 1905.*

International Philatelic Exhibition at Milan

THE English philatelic Press has not yet announced that an International Philatelic Exhibition will be held next year in Milan on the occasion of the fêtes by which the opening of the Simplon Tunnel will be celebrated. Various exhibitions will be held at that time in the Lombardy capital, and among others there will be a Retrospective Section dealing with means of communication. This will certainly be one of the most interesting, and one to which the philatelic exhibition will be some sort of complement, although the latter exhibition will be separated entirely from the others, and the Committee which has just been formed for the purpose has no connection with the General Committee of the Exhibition.

Having had the honour to be on the first provisional committee which proposed to hold a philatelic ex-

hibition in Milan in 1906, I had insisted that it should be limited to Italian collectors. It did not seem to me to be at all desirable to have an international exhibition in the same year as that to be held by the English philatelists, even if one took care to leave an interval of several days, or of several weeks, between the two. Nevertheless, this idea was not adopted, for it would have been a token of our modesty. I hope that the difference between the degree of importance, which is certainly of the first rank, which will be attained by the London Exhibition and that of Milan, will not be too striking, and that we other Italians may not emphasise our inferiority with regard to our friends across the Channel. One thing which is not flattering to us is that Italy has always played a most insignificant part in the international exhibitions which have been held abroad; indeed, there was not one Italian exhibitor at the exhibition held in Berlin last year.

It is true that all idea of rivalry is naturally excluded. Perhaps the united forces of our collectors, and the support that we shall try to get from abroad, will enable us to get together as a whole collections sufficiently interesting and fairly complete. I cannot do more than hope that the executive committee may be most successful; it consists of members of the Lombardy Philatelic Society, to which we owe already the Milan Exhibition of 1894, and that held in Turin in 1898, and its members are: Ing. L. Rivolta, President; P. Cometta, Treasurer; A. E. Fiecchi, Secretary; and G. B. Cresto, and A. Chiesa.

The programme has not been drawn up yet, and the date of the exhibition is not fixed. But I promise the readers of *G.S.W.* to inform them of the programme and date in good time, and I make the promise all the more gladly as I can say at present that young collectors will not be forgotten.

Italian Inland Postal Rates.

IN my first letter to *G.S.W.*, vol. i. p. 145, I spoke of the projected reform of the inland postal rates, a reform announced long ago. The project laid before the Chamber of Deputies on April 30th, 1903, could not be discussed by reason of the end of the parliamentary session. The then Minister of Posts and Telegraphs received from his two last predecessors the inheritance of this project of reform, to which, instead of the title "Alteration of the Postal Tariff," he gave that of "Reduction." Now, as the project contains, with the reduction of the postage on inland letters from 20 to 15 centesimi for 15 grammes, also the raising of the postage on illustrated post cards from 2 to 5 centesimi, it has been pointed out that the title "Reduction" cannot be regarded as being quite exact.

Picture Post Cards

A CURIOUS thing happened on the presentation of the new project. The public welcomed favourably the announcement of an approaching reduction in the postage on letters; the reduction had been promised for July 1st; Chambers of Commerce and private persons had asked for it for a very long time; but, all the same, it cannot be said for certain that there has been formed among us any real *movement* on the part of the great public on behalf of the adoption of the law, although it is of a nature that affects the interests of everybody. On the contrary, the raising of the postage on picture post cards led at once to loud protestations from all quarters. It was contended that such an increase would certainly strike a formidable blow at "the new and flourishing industry of picture post cards," and poetry has even been written on the subject of this form of missive, the importance of which has been exaggerated, at least I think so.

The postal authorities fear, for their part, rightly or wrongly, a considerable falling-off of revenue as the result of reducing the postage on inland letters, and they do not think they can give up the idea of raising the postage on picture post cards, as they hope they will thereby make up for the losses on the letter postage. Thus they are trying to catch with one hand all that they let fall from the other. By a strange coincidence the project, which ought to have come into force on July 1st, was discussed in the Chamber of Deputies on that very day and was passed after a short discussion. The temperature of the chamber was too high and there were too many other projects to be dealt with to allow of all the attention which it deserved being given to the project. The discussion in the Senate was still more laconic, and there the project was accepted after an unimportant debate.

New Tariff for September 1st, 1905

Thus, the new tariff of 15 centesimi for inland letters will begin on September 1st; the postage on visiting cards and picture post cards will be raised to 5 centesimi, but newspapers and printed matter sent off by private persons will continue to enjoy the rate of 2 centesimi. Time will show us whether the measure is good.

Proposed Provisional

* Meanwhile, I am told that the present postage stamps of 20 cent. will be surcharged in black to reduce their value to 15 cent. It was said that the stamp of 20 cent. would be withdrawn from circulation, but I learn from a good source that it will remain in use. In this way the "provisional" tariff introduced "with repugnance" by the celebrated minister Sella on January 1st, 1865, will have lasted forty years and eight months. One must admit that for a "provisional" tariff it has not had a short life. How long will the postage rate of 15 cent. last?

Forgeries of old Italians

It is known that various stamps of the old Italian states have been forged for the purpose of defrauding the Post Office: the Lombardy-Venice, 1850, 15, 30 and 45 cent.; the Church, 1852, 1, 5, and 8 baj.; the Naples, 1858, 2, 10, and 20 grana; the Neapolitan Provinces, 1861, 2, 5, 10, and 20 grana, are pretty well known. With regard to the stamps of the Kingdom of Italy, there have been so far only imitations of the 15 cent. lithographed of February 13th, 1863, Stanley Gibbons' Nos. 18 and 19; these came from two different sources, one from Naples and the other from Rieti and Aquila. This special list of forged stamps "for cheating the Post Office" is much in request in Italy, although it is often neglected abroad, and as there are several types and varieties the field is a rather large one.

Forgeries of current Italians

Lately there has been discovered an imitation of the present postage stamp of 10 cent., carmine, portrait of King Victor Emmanuel III. Some private post cards sent from Milan to Verona, and bearing some of these forged stamps, were seized on their arrival, and it seems that the authorities have run down the guilty person or persons. It is a clumsy lithographed imitation on wove paper, without watermark, perf. 11½ instead of 14. Collectors of such curiosities have thus another piece to look for. But if this imitation is not to be feared, it is not the same with regard to other imitations of old stamps and of old postal obliterations made for collectors. There would be a great deal to say under this heading, but this letter is already too long, and I hope to speak on the subject later. Finally, I cannot too strongly recommend collectors of the stamps of the old Italian states to buy them from reliable sources only, and to distrust offers "very advantageous."

EMILIO DIENA.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Liverpool Philatelic Society.

President : Herbert Woods.

Secretary : W. Halfpenny, 28, Dacey Street, Liverpool.

Meetings : Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. 7 p.m.

Annual Subscription :

Programme for 1905-6.

1905

Sept. 25. Discussion, "How to increase the Membership." Opened by A. Moffatt. Display, British South Africa and Persia.

Oct. 9. Paper on "Cyprus." A. S. Allender. Display, Cyprus and Norway.

Oct. 23. Paper on "Dominica" (B.W.I.). J. G. Cuthbertson. Display, Dominica and Cuba.

Nov. 6. Display, "Roumania." W. Dorning Beckton, President Manchester Philatelic Society.

Nov. 20. Discussion, "Collecting as a Hobby." Opened by J. Hughes. Display, British Bechuanaland and Panama.

Dec. 4. Paper on "Saxony." C. N. B. Crowther. Display, Saxony and Ceylon.

Dec. 18. Discussion, "Collecting as an Investment." Opened by W. C. Taylor. Display, United States of America.

1906

Jan. 8. Paper on "Canada." G. Burrow. Display, Canada and Sweden.

Jan. 22. Lantern display, "Minor Varieties." J. H. M. Savage.

Feb. 5. Paper on "Great Britain." J. J. Bernstein. Display, Great Britain.

Feb. 19. Sale. Display, Seychelles and British Guiana.

March 5. Paper on "Sarawak." H. Woods. Display, Sarawak and Belgium.

March 19. Paper on "Some Old Post Office Regulations." A. Phelps. Display, St. Vincent and Southern Nigeria.

April 2. Discussion, "Specialism" (opened by C. S. Milner), v. "General" (opened by J. A. Gordon). Display for special prize.

April 23. Annual Meeting.

May 7. Display of "Kings' Heads."

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THE STAMP MARKET

3y AN ODD LOT

The Trend of Prices

MR. BURTON F. J. COOPER, in *Morley's Philatelic Journal*, has an interesting contribution on Gibbons' new Catalogue, as to the general trend of prices.

He tabulates an array of statistics in regard to the number of stamps in each of the British colonies which have increased or decreased in price, and he totals up his final result as follows: unused, increased, 400, decreased, 538; rate of difference of increase and decrease to number priced, 11.0 per cent.

His examination in detail of increases and decreases results in the following deductions:—

1. The generally increased demand for colonials, as shown by an average rise in price of 11% and 12.4% for unused and used respectively.

2. The growing popularity of Philately amongst those of modest means is evidenced by the way in which the mostly cheaper used stamps hold their own against the more expensive unused. This should aid in justifying the belief (held by many of us) in fine used copies as a good investment.

3. The very general liking for the stamps, particularly in used condition, of that most interesting group, Australia and New Zealand. Such varieties as are priced unused have evidently had due regard paid to their scarcity in earlier editions, whilst the large number left unpriced are too rare and therefore too expensive to appeal to the purse of the average collector.

4. The extent to which the stamps of our South African colonies have suffered from the inflation produced as a result of the late war. Assuredly, however, no changes of fashion can permanently affect the well-deserved popularity, with the earnest philatelist, of the early issues of the Transvaal, or of the triangular Capes with the general collector.

5. One other feature may be noticed, viz. even the "superficial" philatelist begins to set comparatively little store by the picture emissions of Labuan, North Borneo, and Tonga in unused condition. This would seem to show that the enthusiastic philatelist prizes his stamps for something more than the "beautiful pictures."

He classifies the following colonies as showing the largest proportion of increases in price, unused and used:—

Class I.

British Guiana.
Hong Kong.
Straits Settlements.

Class II.

British Central Africa.
Cyprus.

Class III.

British Columbia.
Southern Nigeria.
Native Malay States.
Tobago.

Gibbons Part II.

I HAVE just received the bound volume of Part II. It is a worthy companion volume of Part I. The new illustrations in the exact size of the stamps are excellent, and the thinner and better quality paper on which the Catalogue is printed is also a great improvement. The book opens flat, and is far less bulky than before, though it comprises an additional twenty-one pages.

Japan

RESUMING our comparison of prices we come to Japan, and note a decided tendency to advance in the quaint little stamps of the first issue. I set out the full list with all their marked shades:—

| 1871. | Imperf. | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|----------|---------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 48 mons. | red-brown | 0 6 | — | 0 6 | — |
| 48 | „ brown | 0 6 | — | 1 6 | 4 0 |
| 48 | „ deep brown | 1 0 | 4 0 | 1 6 | 4 0 |
| 100 | „ blue | 0 9 | 5 0 | 1 0 | — |
| 100 | „ deep blue | 0 9 | — | 1 0 | 5 0 |
| 200 | „ orange-vermilion | 7 6 | 3 0 | 7 6 | 2 6 |
| 200 | „ vermilion | 6 0 | 3 0 | 6 0 | 2 6 |
| 500 | „ pale yellow-green | — | 30 0 | — | 30 0 |
| 500 | „ yellow-green | 60 0 | 20 0 | 60 0 | — |
| 500 | „ pale blue-green | 18 0 | 7 6 | 20 0 | 7 6 |
| 500 | „ blue-green | 6 0 | 7 6 | 10 0 | 7 6 |
| 500 | „ deep blue-green | 6 0 | — | 6 0 | 15 0 |

The prices of the same series perforated remain unchanged.

In the 1872 series of the larger-sized stamps, types 6 to 9, there are many changes—some up, some down—in both unused and used:—

| 1872. | Perf. | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|----------|----------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1/2 sen. | brown | 0 9 | 0 6 | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 1 | „ blue | — | — | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 1 | „ deep blue | 3 0 | 0 6 | 2 0 | 0 6 |
| 2 | „ vermilion | 10 0 | 5 0 | 7 6 | 5 0 |
| 10 | „ yellow-green | 12 6 | 10 0 | 12 6 | 12 6 |
| 10 | „ blue-green | 12 6 | 10 0 | 12 6 | 12 6 |
| 20 | „ violet | 20 0 | 15 0 | 20 0 | 20 0 |
| 30 | „ grey | 30 0 | 10 0 | 30 0 | 15 0 |

In the 1875 series there are also a few marked changes, including one or two reductions:—

| 1875 | | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|----------|-----------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | Unused. | Used. | Unused. | Used. |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1/2 sen. | grey | 0 6 | 0 4 | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 1 | „ brown | 2 6 | 0 2 | 2 0 | 0 2 |
| 4 | „ green | 7 6 | 0 6 | 6 0 | 0 6 |
| 6 | „ orange | 7 6 | 1 0 | 10 0 | 1 0 |
| 10 | „ blue | 4 0 | 4 0 | 4 0 | 3 0 |
| 20 | „ carmine | 5 0 | 0 6 | 4 0 | 0 6 |
| 30 | „ violet | 12 6 | 10 0 | 12 6 | 10 0 |

In the remaining series there are a few ups and downs, but the ups predominate.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4,700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1,000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

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Tenth Edition. Size of pages, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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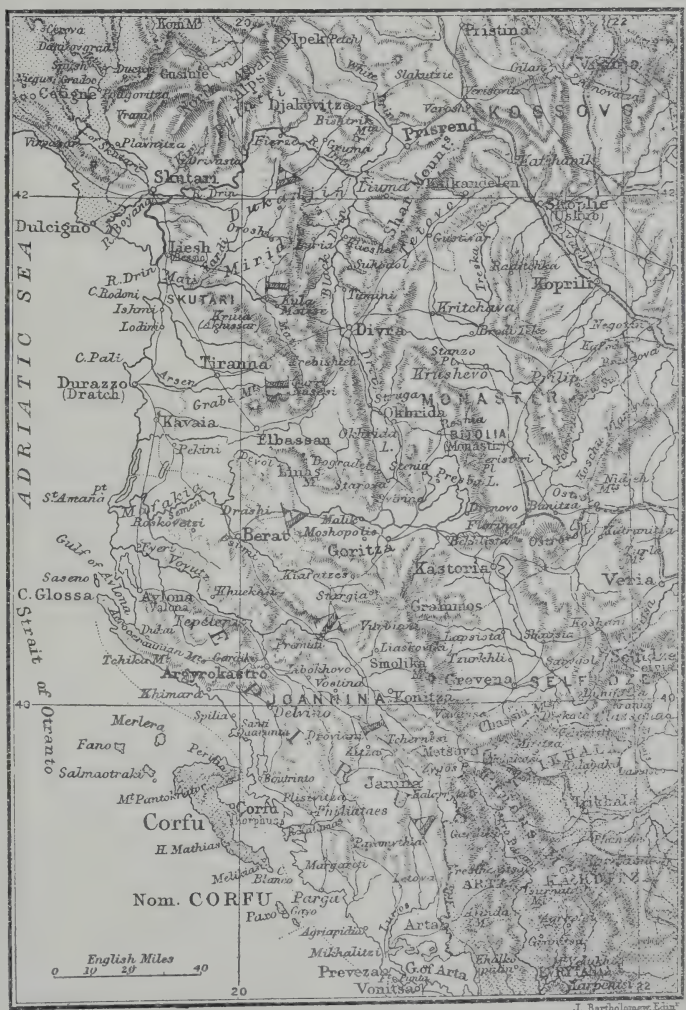
THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Albania

ALBANIA comprises the vilayets of Scutari, Janina, and part of Monastir, and according to *The International Geography* is not at all an inviting place of residence, or it is described as 'a wild and inaccessible mountain land descending on the west to a wampy and unhealthy coastal plain.' Even Epirus, which belongs physically to the Greek Peninsula, and is inhabited almost exclusively by Greeks, but nevertheless forms part of Albania, is of a similar character. The Albanians are, moreover, said to be "a warlike and very uncultivated people, whose speech has never up to modern times become a literary language; they are divided into several tribes at enmity with each other, and many fall victims to family feuds and private vengeance." These delightful people are further divided in almost equal numbers into Mohammedans, Greek and Roman Catholics.

In this land of cut-



throats, it is not surprising to learn "the Turkish jurisdiction is confined to the larger towns."

Cattle-breeding is carried on in the interior and olive culture on the coast. In ancient times some of the harbours did a considerable trade with Italy. The population is about 1,500,000.

Its Philatelic History

Italy, which maintains no post office in any other part of the Turkish Empire, not even in Constantinople, has three in Albania, viz. at Durazzo, Janina, and Skodra, the result of ancient ties.

Albania has no philatelic history apart from its Italian post offices, and for these a couple of issues, both dating from 1902, have so far sufficed. They consist first of three values overprinted with the word ALBANIA, with the value below, and the second series in the same year with the name omitted and overprinted simply with the value in Turkish currency. All of which may be taken to mean that these three simple values were issued to meet a genuine postal need. In some other hands the three values would have been extended to at least a round dozen.

Nominally the foreign post offices in Turkey have been established and are being maintained by each country for the benefit of its resident countrymen, but any one may post letters in these post offices; and as the letters handed in by the public are despatched in through bags to other post offices of the world without being handled by the Turkish officials, they are much appreciated by all foreigners.

(To be continued.)

1902. The 5 c., 35 c., and 40 c. of the current Italian stamps overprinted in black ALBANIA, with value under in Turkish currency. Watermark Crown and perf.

ALBANIA

10 Para 10



Overprinted on current Italian stamps. Wmk. Crown. Perf.

- "10 para 10," in black, on 5 c., green.
- "35 para 35" " " 20 c., orange.
- "40 para 40" " " 25 c., blue.

1902. Same Turkish currency surcharge, but without the name "Albania," on the same current stamps of Italy.

Overprinted on current Italian stamps. Without name. Wmk. Crown. Perf.

- "10 para 10," in black, on 5 c., green.
- "35 para 35" " " 20 c., orange.
- "40 para 40" " " 25 c., blue.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII., or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$; available for mounting stamps, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 351, Strand, London, W.C.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 68.)

1. Name of the Country (continued)

IN 1900 the first issue of the permanent Government of Crete under Prince George of Greece appeared. The "10 lepta" value had, for design, the portrait of Prince George. The other values depicted various well-known characters in the realm of mythology. They were, Hermes, the herald of the gods and the guide of the dead in Hades, on the 1 lepton; Hera, the queen of heaven and wife of Zeus, on the 20 lepta; Talos, the brazen giant and guardian of Crete, on the 1 drachma; Minos, son of Zeus and mythical king of Crete, on the 2 drachma; and lastly, St. George and the Dragon, on the 5 drachma. The currency is that of Greece. The drachma, of the value of 10d., is divided into 100 lepta.

CRETE.



Hermes.



Prince George.

1900.

The first Saxony stamp was of the "numeral" order; SACHSEN (*i.e.* "Saxony") is inscribed above the numeral which forms the central design.

SAXONY.



1850.

In the next issue of 1851 two designs appeared. The 3 pfennige presented the Arms of Saxony on a shield. The four higher values had, as the central design, the head of King Frederick Augustus II. Similar issues appeared in 1856 and 1863, the latter having the Arms embossed in white relief.



1851.

Up to the year 1851 the Prince of Thurn and Taxis provided for the postal needs of Wurtemberg. In that year Wurtemberg paid a sum of about £100,000 to be freed from this direction, and straightway set about joining the German-Austrian Postal Union. The second issue of this state has already been dealt with under the heading of "Stamps without a Name." The fourth series was one in which the name of the country appears in the abbreviated form WÜRTT. The central design of this 1875 series consisted of the numeral of value. On the right was a shield with three lions, while on the left appeared three stags' horns on a shield.

WURTEMBERG.



1875-9.

After the Austro-Prussian War in 1866 Prussia became the supreme state of

Germany. The North German Confederation was formed. It consisted of Prussia and twenty-one other German states. An issue of stamps for this confederation was brought out in 1868. The inscription, *NORDDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK*, means "North German Postal Circuit." The value in words appears at the base of the stamp.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.



1868.

The year 1871 saw the re-establishment of the German Empire. The first series of stamps appeared in 1872. The design, Arms, embossed in white within a coloured frame, is well known. The inscription, *DEUTSCHE REICHS-POST*, means "German Imperial Post." Later in the same year two higher values of 10 and 30 groschen were issued. They may be easily identified from the accompanying illustrations.

GERMAN EMPIRE.



1872.

The first issue of the German Empire must be carefully distinguished from the issue of July, 1873. In the latter issue the shape of the eagle was altered. The shield on the breast and the crown were made larger. Mistakes were made, owing to the similarity in colour of the 2½ groschen and the 9 kreuzer with the 5 groschen and the 18 kreuzer. The 2½ gr. and the 9 kr. had therefore large numerals of value printed over the Arms in the embossed centre. These overprinted stamps appeared in 1874.

Greece, the home of ancient art, applied to France for her first issue of postage stamps. The French issue of 1849 was

taken as the model for this Grecian series. The head of Hermes, the messenger of the gods, was substituted for that of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture and the fruits of the earth. The inscription, *ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΝ ΓΡΑΜΜΑΤΟΣΕΜΟΝ*, *i.e.* "Greek Letter Stamp." The value in "lepta" appears at the base of the design. For the currency, the reader is referred to our remarks on the stamps of Crete.

An issue of 1886 was designed and printed in Belgium. The head of Hermes appears in a smaller circle, and *ΕΛΛΑΣ*, *i.e.* "Greece," is the inscription in the rectangular frame above the circle.

GREECE.



The year 1896 saw the revival of the Olympic Games. To meet the large expenses involved in this undertaking a series of postage stamps was allowed to be issued by the committee of the games. The issue was to be used concurrently with the ordinary postage stamps until the October of 1896. After that date the Government used the issue for the ordinary postal service. The inscriptions are in Greek, and read, "Olympian Games, Greece, 1896." The 1 lepton and 2 lepta represent a fight between two gladiators. The 5 and 10 lepta give us the discus or quoit thrower. The 20 and 40 lepta have, for central design, an amphora with the figure of Minerva between two cocks. The 25 and 60 lepta present a chariot drawn by four magnificent steeds, and driven by a godlike form. The 1 drachma has a view of the course where the games were held. The 2 drachmæ depicts Hermes with the child Dionysius in his arms, after the statue by Praxiteles, one of the most famous Greek sculptors. The statue was unearthed by German excavators at Olympia. Hermes was found minus two legs and the right arm. The stamp reproduces the statue in its original state of perfection.

The 5 drachmæ is a representation of the winged figure of Victory of the Greek

sculptor Pœonius. The last of the series, the 10 drachmæ, gives us a view of the Acropolis, the citadel of Athens.

Among the many provisional issues of Greece in 1900 one series calls for special mention, viz. that in which the surcharge "A.M." appears on stamps of the first issue. The "A.M." is an abbreviation for "Axia Metaliki," and means "the worth of metal or gold." The surcharge signified that the stamps were to be sold for money, and not given in exchange for the depreciated paper currency.

GREECE.

Olympic Games Issue.



1896.

(To be continued.)

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Argentine Republic

William Brown. Mr. Thos. G. Richards, of Umtali, Rhodesia, very kindly sends me the following very interesting account of our old friend William Brown:—

"In No. 2 of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* (vol. i. p. 24), I notice that you bemoan the fact that you have been unable to find out anything relating to

the 'W. Brown' whose portrait appears on the Argentine stamp of 20 dollars, green, of 1891.

"I spent many years in the Argentine Republic, and perhaps the following particulars of the gentleman in question will help you to keep up this very interesting portion of the paper.

"William Brown was an Irishman, born at Foxford, County Mayo, Ireland, on June 22nd, 1777, and went with his father to the United States of America in 1786, the elder Brown settling at Pennsylvania. Young Brown, although then only nine years of age, had a tendency to roam, and at the age named shipped as a cabin-boy on a vessel going to Europe, and for upwards of twenty years passed a very

adventurous life in different parts of that continent.

"It was purely chance that gave Brown the opportunity of immortalising himself in the history of the Argentine, for owing to an error of an inexperienced pilot his vessel, the *Grand Napoleon*, which he owned himself, was in the latter part of 1811 wrecked off Ensenada. For two years he stayed in the Argentine, at the end of which time the Government gave him the command of a squadron, consisting of a frigate, two brigantines, and a schooner, with a total of seventy guns and 500 men, to oppose a Spanish squadron of fourteen men-of-war and twenty armed merchantmen, which had been sent out from Spain to try to recapture the ground they had lost in that year when the Republic of the Argentine was formed and the Spanish driven out of the country.

"He was given the rank of Commodore, and a commission to thrash the Spaniards wherever he found them. On March 14th, 1814, he sailed from Buenos Aires. After continual fighting for two and a half years in the rivers, the Atlantic, and the Pacific, he swept the Spanish naval power in South America from the east coast.

"In 1826 we again find him fighting against Brazil, winning battles against



overwhelming odds, nor did he stop until peace was made in 1828, through the mediation of England.

"He died full of years in May, 1857, and was buried in the Recoleta Cemetery in Buenos Aires."

Chili

This dominant republic on the Pacific coast of South America is a favourite with many collectors. From its postal first issue to the last a portrait of Columbus has figured on the stamps of Chili. The full-bearded face in Spanish cap of the period is familiar to all stamp collectors. It appeared first on the first issue engraved and printed by Perkins Bacon and Co. in 1853, also on the stamps designed and engraved by the American Bank Note Co. in 1867, and again in 1900 on a series designed and engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, but in 1901 the American Bank Note Co. gave Christopher a clean shave and a priestly appearance.

Why the Chilians have displayed such a philatelic love for Christopher Columbus puzzles me, for the great discoverer never got nearer that land of earthquakes than the mouth of the Orinoco River.

Columbus, Christopher. The great discoverer is said to have been born at or near Genoa, in Italy, about 1446, and died at Valladolid in 1506. In early life he was a sailor. Impressed with the idea that

Asia might be reached by sailing westward, he first approached the King of Portugal to fit out an experimental expedition. Meeting with no success, he next tried Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, who, after much negotiation, finally agreed to fit out an expedition on the terms



as to rewards for success dictated by Columbus. He sailed on his first voyage with three ships in 1492, and discovered the Bahamas, and touched at other West Indian islands, returning to Spain in the following year. Later in the same year he sailed again with seventeen ships and 1,500 men, discovered Dominica, Cuba, and Jamaica. He started on his third voyage in 1498, and keeping farther south discovered Trinidad and the mouth of the Orinoco River. After many adventures and troubles with compatriots he was sent back to Spain in chains in 1500. He was at once released, and set out on his last voyage in 1502, touching at Santo Domingo, and sailing thence to Central America, discovering Honduras, and coasting the Isthmus of Jamaica in search of a passage westward. He returned to Spain in 1504, and passed his last days in poverty and neglect, and in the belief that the new lands that he had discovered were portions of Asia.

His portrait appears on all the postage stamps of Chili.

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GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Badges Again

MISS AMY L. SWIFT sends me a further suggestion for a badge. She writes :—

I have another idea. Why would not a perforation gauge, in miniature, be just the thing? It is simple, thoroughly suggestive of Philately, and of nothing else, and is in every way international, without the drawback of being at all national. To my mind it is the best thought yet. If we are to have a badge at all, it should be satisfactory enough for both universal and permanent adoption, that it may become well known.

I am delighted with this suggestion of a perforation gauge as a badge, and find that all the necessary gauges from nine to sixteen can be got on a badge of the length of our English penny stamp, and about three-quarters of the width. I took the popular "Ideal" gauge and cut the dotted gauges into strips, and so got all on to the two sides of a piece of paper the size proposed.

As Miss Swift says, this excellent idea of hers is in every way suitable for international adoption, indeed it is the only approach to a satisfactory badge for worldwide adoption that I have had. Besides, it will be not only significant and ornamental, but most useful.

Let us hear what can be said against it before we go any further. Personally, I am enamoured of the idea.

British South Africa Commemorating

I AM sorry to hear that the British South Africa Company have issued a series of labels to commemorate the visit of the British Association to Rhodesia. It is to be hoped that the popular stamps of British South Africa are not going to be depopularised by childish commemorative labels. As a specialist in B.S.A. stamps I should be sorry to see them degraded in a philatelic sense to the level of North Borneo.

It would not take much in the way of commemorating labels, especially of the class to be used concurrently with the regular series, to rule out British South

Africa from the list of countries popular amongst philatelists.

Gems from India

THE Editor has handed me a sheet issued in Bangalore, India, entitled "The Young Postage Stamp Collector," from which I must quote a few interesting tit-bits. Here is one about native Indian stamps :—

Many native states in India use their own stamps, some are very rough designs and show sometimes portraits of rulers which are often ugly and struck by hand.

Here's a free advertisement for our publishers :—

Deal of a reliable dealer, Messrs. Stanley and Gibbons are very reliable, they are the Publishers of the album I use.

And here's a sop for our editor :—

I have seen a very good paper called Gibbons Stamp weekly edited by Mr. Nankivell who is a very literary gentleman, there is a good story in it called the stamp king.

And another for Mr. Wetherell. I hope the bills he is locally reported to be collecting are payable at sight :—

There are many collectors in Bangalore, including Col. Perin who was a big collector, and several others like Mr. Witherell, have many stamps, but they collect bills as well : Col. Perin keeps it in the bank.

Here's a bit of *multum in parvo* :—

People have collected stamps for years, first for hospitals and to paper rooms with, and now for collections so that all over the world there are many collectors, and some of them form clubs. There are different sorts of collectors, beginners, big collectors, and people who only collect one country, called specialists who go in for watermarks which are the patterns in the paper where it is thinner, and they are a good way of telling forgeries.

The collection in the museum at Bangalore, to the disgrace of Mr. Wetherell, seems to be in a bad way :—

The collection in the Museum here is very poor. There are only 60 or 70, and most damaged.

Colour Names

THE *Australian Journal of Philately* has been going for our Gibbons on the colour question. It finds thirty-three varieties of greens in the great Catalogue, which explains the change of the colour of the cover of Part II. from dark blue to green. Then there are forty browns, fifty purples, and ninety reds. Great Scott!

It looks awful! But it's an old grievance. We are all sixes and sevens as to colour names. There is no standard, and until some one comes along with an acceptable standard we shall continue as we are.

The International Exhibition

I HEAR that the programme of the great International Philatelic Exhibition has been completed, and needs only a little revision before it will be published.

When we are in possession of this document we shall be able to get some idea of the probable scope of the Exhibition and of its probable popularity.

One thing I hope the Executive Committee will see to, and that is the arrangement of the exhibits on such a plan that any particular exhibit may be easily found. The last great Exhibition was arranged in a conundrum fashion. You often heard such snatches of conversation as this:—

Visitor A: "Where is So-and-so's Timbuctoo?"

Visitor B: "Blowed if I know!"

To Committee Man: "Here! I say, where are the Timbuctoo exhibits?"

Committee Man: "Timbuctoo exhibits? Eh? I believe I saw 'em somewhere just now."

To Committee Man: "Well, where?"

Committee Man: "Where? I fancy it was up in that corner."

To Committee Man: "It can't be in that corner, for Beckton's Greece has got that corner."

Committee Man: "Well, then, it must have been somewhere else."

"G.S.W." Vol. I.

I HAVE just received a presentation copy of Vol. I., handsomely bound in scarlet cloth with a most effective lettering on the side. But I wonder how the ordinary man will like to have his advertisement and text all bound up together? Some years hence it will probably be one of the scarce books in Philately and be much sought after, principally for "Gossip of the Hour" by Cornelius Wrinkle.

I may add that the binding of a periodical just as it is published, covers and all, is the plan adopted by the British Museum and all collectors get their periodicals together in this way, if they can.

The old periodicals are very valuable with covers and advertisements. I remember very poignantly the years I spent in getting together a set of *The Philatelist's* covers and advertisements complete. I forwarded the precious set to the bookbinder with most emphatic instructions as to the inclusion of covers and advertisements in the binding, but all the same he deliberately stripped them all off and pitched them into the waste-paper basket. I am still hoping to meet that workman this side of Hades.

THE STRAND POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Azores.—*Der Philatelist* states that an official decree has been published announcing that separate sets for Angra, Horta, and Delgada, the three administration districts of the Azores, will be replaced by a single set for common use of these districts inscribed AÇORES.

The values are to be 2½ r., 5 r., 10 r., 20 r., 25 r., 50 r., 75 r., 100 r., 200 r., 300 r., and 500 r.

British Somaliland.—The first of the King's Heads to appear on the multiple CA paper is the 1d., which Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. inform us they have received.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.
1d., carmine and grey-black.

British South Africa.—We have received a set of six values with a view of the celebrated Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River. They are issued to celebrate the occasion of the visit of the British Association to the great Falls and the completion of the bridge over the Zambesi.

The stamps have been designed, engraved, and printed by Messrs. Waterlow, and are to be used concurrently with the regular Arms issue.



Perf.
1d., brick-red.
2½d., blue.
5d., lake.
1s., green.
2s. 6d., black.
5s., violet.

Ceylon.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. report the receipt of the 75 c. on the multiple paper. This value on the multiple paper has followed very closely on the belated issue of the same value on single CA paper.

Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 2 c., orange-brown.
- 3 c., green.
- 4 c., orange, value carmine.
- 5 c., purple.
- 6 c., carmine.

- 12 c., sage-green, value rosine.
- 15 c., ultramarine.
- 25 c., light brown.
- 75 c., bright blue, value orange.
- 1 r. 50 c., grey.
- 2 r. 25 c., brown and green.

Chili.—In the early months of this year it was announced that the Chilian authorities had invited tenders for the manufacture of a new series of stamps to be enriched with the portraits of Chilian celebrities. Then it was reported that the American Bank Note Company claimed the right to continue supplying the stamps.

Whatever the dispute may have been, it is evident that the present production of the proposed elaborate series has had to be abandoned, for we have just received 3 c. and 5 c. stamps with portrait of a clean-shaved Columbus, with the imprint of the American Bank Note Company. These stamps, both of the same design, are presumably the first of a new series.



Perf.
3 centavos, brown.
5 ,, blue.

Denmark.—There have been rumours that the recently issued King's Head type is to be abandoned, and this new stamp would seem to lend colour to that rumour, but our Copenhagen correspondent's letter, published on another page, intimates that further values of the King's Heads merely await the using up of the stocks of current stamps.

Natal.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have received the 4d. value on multiple C.A. paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- ½d., light green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 4d., carmine and cinnamon.
- 2s. 6d., purple.

MISCELLANEOUS

N.S.W. High Values Stolen

SOME four or five years ago large numbers of New South Wales 5s. coin, 10s. duty, surcharged "Postage," and £1 Carrington stamps came on the market, and the wonder was where they came from. All were nice, clean, fresh-looking specimens, and obliterated "Broken Hill," "Wagga Wagga," and "Newcastle" by the stampers usually adopted by those offices.

It was subsequently discovered that they had belonged to "collect" forms, representing the totals of moneys "collected" on telegrams by country postmasters. These (the forms) were filed and stored in a press, to be eventually destroyed, as they were not again required; but two young men (belonging to the Department), who were caught, considered that they might as well make a penny (even if it were not an honest one) by selling them.

At that time steps were taken which it was supposed would prevent the likelihood of a recurrence, but the unexpected often happens. Some days ago the postal authorities were acquainted that some official was trafficking in these stamps again, and that a big lot of £1 Carringtons and 5s. coins had been sold to a dealer. When applied to for information we expressed the opinion that the person who volunteered the news must have heard of the old affair of four or five years ago. At any rate, we knew nothing which would lead us to the conclusion that trafficking in them had been resumed. The discovery of some numbers of 5s. and £1 stamps bearing obliterations with dates subsequent to 1900-1901 led those investigating the matter to the conclusion that there must be a screw loose somewhere, and within the past few days the culprit has been caught and has confessed his guilt.

Since the beginning of April the authorities have adopted the practice of punching a hole about a quarter of an inch wide in each stamp value 5s., 10s., or 20s. This should effectually put temptation out of the way of officials, as such stamps would be valueless as philatelic specimens.

Australian Journal of Philately, June, 1905.

New South Wales. 3d., wmk. 10

THE stamp above referred to was issued in 1891, and has been included in most catalogues since. At that time the supply of paper suitable for printing the 3d. stamp, watermarked N S W and Crown, had run short, and a temporary issue was made on some of the old tenpenny paper which had been discarded. A funny circumstance surrounded the affair, and, although ancient history, may bear repeating. A cute philatelist, having heard that £100 worth had been issued, went to the G.P.O. and bought, straight away, £95 worth, leaving £5 worth to be put in circulation in order to establish the genuineness of his stock; but the postal authorities, being still short of a supply, euchred him, for they immediately gave orders to have £200 worth more printed, which were at once put on sale. Many of these were also bought up by speculators, the result being that at the present time (fourteen years later) they are priced in Gibbons' Catalogue, Nos. 380 and 381, at 6d. each unused, and are a trifle scarcer used.

Australian Journal of Philately.

Tales of Philatowin

IT was in the good old summer time. The stamp dealer sat with his feet on the desk wondering whether some collector who was willing to buy out of season would drift in and hand him enough to pay the last month's rent. His summer clerk force, consisting of a chemical blonde of around eighteen, was sleeping peacefully with her head on the typewriter, and everything seemed to have stopped except expenses. Presently there came an interruption. The doorway was filled with a vision of beauty that paralysed the

dealer and nearly caused him to fall out of his chair. When he recovered his power of speech he greeted the caller politely, and noted with greedy gaze the few thousand dollars worth of diamonds she had strung around over her neck, arms, and fingers. Without giving her time to state her wishes, he frantically drew out stock-books, approval cards, packets, and sundries, and piled the show-case knee deep in about three minutes. The lady looked on in astonishment, and opened her mouth two or three times as if about to speak, but she had no chance. Finally the dealer had about everything in the place on the counter, and stopped to recover his breath before beginning to sell her the big bill that he felt sure was in sight. "Now, Madam—" he began, but the lady interrupted him and said, smiling sweetly, "If you are through with your work, would you mind selling me a 2-cent stamp? I want to send this letter to my husband, and it's such a long way to the post office." Mechanically the dealer handed out the sticker. Then, as the lady hurried out, he staggered back to his chair and tried to recover from the blow. The clerk still dozed peacefully at the switch.

Mekeel's Weekly.

Origin of the Postmark

'GREAT BRITAIN, it is said, can, without fear of contradiction, claim the honour of having originated the postmark. The first one, which was used in London as long ago as 1660, was a very simple affair, consisting of a small circle divided into two parts. In the top portion were two letters indicating the month, while in the lower half the day of the month was shown. No endeavour was made to denote the year, and it is only by the dates of the letters on which the mark is impressed that it is possible to fix the date of its use. The earliest known was on a letter written in 1680.

Tit-Bits.

Very, Very Green

IT will probably astonish many of our readers to learn that there are no less than thirty-three varieties of green mentioned in Gibbons' (which is universally accepted as right). Our young friends, and perhaps old ones, too, will find it interesting to locate them. They are as follows:—

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Green | Blue-green |
| Light green | Dull blue-green |
| Bright green | Deep blue-green |
| Pale green | Dark blue-green |
| Dull green | Grey-green |
| Deep green | Slate-green |
| Full deep green | Sap-green |
| Dark green | Apple-green |
| Yellow-green | Sage-green |
| Light yellow-green | Olive-green |
| Bright yellow-green | Pale olive-green |
| Pale yellow-green | Sea-green |
| Dull yellow-green | Myrtle-green |
| Deep yellow-green | Bronze-green |
| Emerald-green | Pea-green |
| Pale emerald-green | Grass-green |
| Bluish green | |

Australian Journal of Philately.

Stamps as an Investment

EVEN apart from the question of interest or profit, the collecting of stamps means a saving of money, as many collectors have proved. This of itself is a good thing, and should be encouraged. Stamps judiciously bought are always saleable, and a comparison of present-day catalogues with those of a few years back demonstrates the fact that prices are always rising, and likely to as years roll on and old stamps get older and naturally scarcer.

Australian Journal of Philately.

THE STAMP KING

G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



BETTY SETTLED HERSELF IN A ROCKING-CHAIR

CHAPTER XVI.

What a woman wills—

[THE cables were loosed, the gangways raised.

The tugs attached to the *Bretagne* were pulling at the monster with all their force. Great jets of steam issued from the funnels, and the siren uttered from time to time its sonorous bellow. The boat was now drawn through the flood-gate which separates the basin of the Eure from the outer port. On the quays, from the custom-house to the semaphore, the on-lookers were gathered, those who happened to be passing at the time stopping to assist at the always imposing spectacle of a steamer leaving port.

On the deck of the *Bretagne* the numerous passengers, in their turn, were contemplating the magnificent scene which was unfolding before their eyes—the crowd of people, and the houses on the quays, behind which rose the towers and steeples of Havre, the hills of Ingouville, and the cliffs of Saint-Adresse. Boats had hastened out of their way; whistles were blown, and cries and shouts exchanged, giving an impression of incessant movement and intense and laborious life, as the steamer slowly made her way through the outer port.

Betty settled herself in a rocking-chair among the groups of passengers in the stern, and Victoria was busy arranging the cushions comfortably for her young mistress.

"Are you all right now, Miss Betty?" she asked.

Meeting with no response, and accustomed to such silence, which showed the girl's deep preoccupation, Victoria troubled her no further. But curiosity, aided

by her tender regard for Miss Betty, caused her to keep an eye on her while appearing to take no notice. The girl reclined comfortably in her chair with a far-away gaze, which seemed to take no interest in the scene before her, so absorbing to her fellow-passengers. It was evidently no rash supposition of Victoria's, that her mistress was lost in thoughts of a sober rather than of a diverting character.

"Are you there, Victoria?" she demanded suddenly.

"Yes, Miss Betty," returned the maid, who was standing behind her mistress and now leaned over her to hear what she had to say.

"Look here," said Betty, "I have reflected deeply on what you told me about that stamp."

A passing shiver shook Victoria's meagre frame as Betty continued—

"Yes, I have thought and thought, and can make nothing of it."

"But it is very simple, Miss Betty. As I told you—"

"I know, I know," interrupted Miss Scott. "I have all your story by heart, and, to tell the truth, it seems to me most suspicious."

"Oh, Miss Betty!"

"You can say what you like, but it is no less true that the way in which the stamp has fallen into your hands, its being in Paris at all, the circumstances, the strange chance—in fact, everything connected with the matter, is wonderful in the extreme."

Victoria began to be seriously alarmed as she saw Betty's determination to clear up the matter, and dispose of the suspicions which were all the more alarming because they had come so late.

"In any case," she ventured to say, "it's no use troubling about it now. We have got it, and that is the chief thing."

"I do not think so," said Betty. "Now let us proceed in order. Begin your story again at the very beginning and repeat it every word."

The unhappy Victoria's anxiety was at its height. And there was no means of escaping this inquisition, which threatened to be minute and to last during all the seven days' crossing. It was necessary, however, to enter into the spirit of it to prevent the growth of Miss Betty's ill-timed desire to know everything.

"You remember, Miss Betty, that I told you——?" began Victoria.

At this moment, as the boat passed the breakwater of the north jetty, exclamations were heard among the passengers.

"Look! Look! What is that? It must be a mad-man!"

Shouts and protestations arose from the quay; a violent movement was seen among the crowd, and in the midst of the disturbance two men appeared, rushing breathlessly forward, thrusting the people out of their way, breaking up the groups, pushing and knocking back all who opposed them. Every one on board the *Bretagne* followed the mad course of the two desperadoes, who dashed towards the jetty, at the very moment the boat moved slowly out of the port. They pushed into the front rank against the parapet, and one of them waved his handkerchief and shouted frantically.

"What in the world can he want?" every one wondered, but decided finally that he must be a husband, lover, brother, or friend anxious to exchange a last adieu with one of the passengers. Betty, interested at length, and thinking she would have plenty of time later on for the cross-examination of Victoria, left her chair and drew near the side of the boat.

"Am I dreaming?" she cried, grasping the hand of her maid, who had followed her.

"John and Mr. Keniss!" cried Victoria, overwhelmed with amazement.

"This is astounding!" cried Betty. And, in recognition of what she took for a delicate attention on William's part, she drew out a cambric handkerchief and waved it, crying, in clear, crystal tones—

"Good-bye! We shall meet again soon."

William, for it was indeed he, saw her, and leaned over the parapet as if to get a little nearer, and as the boat passed close by him he cried in a loud voice—

"It is a forgery! A forgery!"

The little American was not long in comprehending the import of these few words. White with anger, and forgetting her usual calmness of demeanour, she fell back into her chair, while the *Bretagne*, which was now out of the channel, plunged into the open sea. But she was not the woman to waste her time in useless despair.

"Victoria!" she cried, suddenly jumping up.

"Yes, Miss Betty," replied the poor girl in a trembling voice, for she quite anticipated violence.

"Go this instant and fetch me the stamp, a magnifying-glass, and the photograph of the original."

The maid disappeared at once in the direction of her mistress's cabin, while the girl muttered to herself—

"Oh, this is too hard! it really is too hard!"

When Victoria returned she took from her hands the little articles she had brought, and, armed with the magnifying-glass, immediately set herself to examine in turn the photograph of the true stamp which she had received from M. Moulineau and the copy which had come into her hands the evening before. The examination lasted several minutes, during which Victoria awaited the result with the greatest anxiety.

"It is indeed a forgery!" cried Miss Betty, with a crushing glance at her maid.

"Is it possible?" murmured Victoria, scarcely knowing what she was saying.

"Look at it yourself!"

"But I don't understand it, Miss Betty."

Taking no notice of the remark, the young girl forced the resisting Victoria to examine the forgery.

"See here," she said, "towards the left, this flower whose right petal is stiffer in this copy than in the original. And this Hindoo character in the middle the upper part of which is a little longer than it should be. And this hair in the Maharajah's beard, which stands out at least the fiftieth of a millimetre too much. And this little arabesque, the curve of which is less pronounced in the forged stamp than in the original. For the stamp is forged, you wretched girl absolutely bad! as bad as ever it could be! And if at this moment I am covered with shame and ridicule, it is to you and to my miserable credulity that I owe it!"

"Oh dear! oh dear!" moaned Victoria.

"It is high time to lament!" continued Betty, with growing anger. "Ah! the suspicions which I had just now were not without foundation: I must get to the root of the matter this instant. Once for all, tell me the truth or—you leave me."

The girl hesitated, in spite of her anger, before uttering this terrible threat. To dismiss Victoria! To destroy in one minute the remembrance of thirty years' service and devotion! To upset the life and break up all the hopes of a poor creature without any other worldly support; too young still to give up all hope of happiness, but too old to begin life over again!

Poor, unhappy Victoria, at the very thought of such a thing being possible, lost control of herself and burst into tears, powerless to answer a word to Miss Betty's inquiry. Nothing more was needed to melt the warm heart of the young girl, who, feeling almost ashamed of her words, seized the hand of her faithful attendant and said with repentant tenderness—

"Come, my dear friend, do not grieve. Of course I do not mean what I said just now. Send you away. I am horrified at the very thought of it, and only yielded to a moment's passion, for which you must forgive me." And with a charming grace she took Victoria in her arms and embraced her before the eyes of the surprised passengers, who continued their promenade on the deck with a smile of amusement.

But if Betty had a kind heart she had, none the less, a stubborn will. So she soon returned to her absorbing thought and began again, though in a friendly voice this time, while Victoria wiped away the tears which still filled her eyes.

"Now tell me the truth quickly, since you no longer bear me any ill-will, for time presses."

A little surprised at this last remark, since they had a whole week's leisure before them in which to talk Victoria, frequently interrupted by little sobs, like the tail-end of a tempest, went over, point by point, and with perfect candour, the account of her interview with John, and the circumstances under which the forged stamp had come into her possession. She omitted nothing which was blameworthy in her conduct, even dwelt with complacency on her occasional duplicity, and accused herself without the least evasion.

"There, that is all there is to tell," she concluded. "I have been to blame, I know, but I only had your interest at heart, Miss Betty, so do please forgive me."

Then, in a few words of affectionate reproach Betty pointed out to her how imprudent she had been. Mr. Keniss would be quite right to blame such conduct severely. Actions such as these should be rigorously avoided by honourable people, and even had the stamp been perfectly authentic, nothing could justify the manner in which it had been procured. But evidently Mr. Keniss knew what to thin of it, or he would not have hastened to Havre.

"Now," concluded Betty, "besides that it would be most humiliating and painful for me to return to New York with a forged stamp, I must immediately

pair the involuntary wrong I have done my kind
al. So go and get our luggage ready and we will
back at Havre in an hour.

"In an hour!"

"Certainly. Be as quick as you can."

Within herself Victoria, who had begun to recover
from her recent despair, reflected sadly—"Back at
Havre this evening! Another mad idea. Oh, dear
me! What will happen next?"

However, as the time was not propitious for speak-
ing her mind, she went off to Miss Betty's cabin to
obey her orders.

The boat was going now at full speed, ploughing
rough the green water and leaving a long track of
white foam, which was visible right to the entrance of the
port. The jetties and houses of Havre were every
moment becoming smaller, their size diminished by

you, so please be good enough to let me have the
means."

"I can only repeat, mademoiselle, that it is not in
my power to give you this satisfaction," said the
captain. "You do not wish to take the *Bretagne*
back, I suppose?" he added, with a touch of irony.

"Of course not."

"Well, then?"

"Sir, I desire you to have me taken back in one of
your boats."

The captain smiled with a gesture of kindly pro-
testation.

"Alas! mademoiselle, I have no right to dispose of
my boats in that way, but never have I so regretted
the formal rules by which I am bound."

"I will buy it from you."

"I am no more able to sell than to lend."



THE BOAT WAS GOING NOW AT FULL SPEED

the distance. For a few moments Miss Betty remained
thoughtful, as if undecided how to act; then, suddenly
making up her mind, she accosted one of the officers
on board and informed him she wished to speak to the
captain immediately.

"You are just in time, for here he is," returned the
officer.

Having cleared the channel, the captain, in his
black-coat and gold-laced cap, was just descending
from the foot-bridge to take a turn on the deck. Miss
Betty ran to him and began abruptly—

"If you please, I must return to land this very
moment."

The captain, thinking he could not possibly have
heard aright, saluted her with perfect courtesy and an
inquiring, "I beg your pardon, mademoiselle?"

"I said I must go back to Havre this very instant."

There was no possibility of a mistake this time, and
the captain, astonished at such a whim, replied—

"But surely, mademoiselle, you are not ignorant of
the fact that that is impossible?"

"Impossible!" said Betty disdainfully. "Surely
you, who go to America so often, ought to know that,
the word has become French, it has not yet, thank
goodness, become American. It must be done, I tell

"Not if I pay a big price?" asked Miss Betty, who,
being an American, was inclined to believe that money
would put everything right.

"Whatever price you offered, mademoiselle, it
would be my painful duty to refuse."

"Two thousand dollars? Three thousand?"

"No, mademoiselle, do not continue. All the
riches in the world could not tempt me to forget my
duty."

"At any rate, you cannot compel me to remain on
the steamer when peremptory reasons call me back to
France," objected Betty.

"But, mademoiselle, you knew these reasons before
you came on board, and no one, so far as I know,
compelled you to come."

"Pardon me, sir. The reasons were only made
known to me as we left the port. I was informed from
the jetty that my stamp——"

"I pray you to believe, mademoiselle, that I have
no wish to pry into your intimate concerns. Whatever
they may be I am, and I shall continue to be, powerless
to help you; to my great grief, believe me."

"This is arbitrary! You will carry me away against
my will!" cried Betty, stamping her little foot on the
shining deck.

(To be continued.)

A SPLENDID START. THE FINEST PACKET.

Packet No. 67, 1,000 varieties. This packet contains 1,000 different Stamps (and no Envelopes, Bands, and
Cards), and is the cheapest packet ever offered by S. G., Ltd., satisfaction being absolutely guaranteed. The
price it is offered at is the lowest ever quoted for such a collection, embracing as it does scores of scarce
varieties, provisionals, new issues, and many very fine and obsolete varieties. 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 39r, Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.
Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.
Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.
Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

Garden Party

A GARDEN party, under the auspices of the Junior Philatelic Society, will be held at Hambly House, Acre Lane, Brixton, on Saturday afternoon, August 12th, when it is hoped a very large number of members and friends will assemble. The spacious grounds of Hambly House are within easy reach of all parts of

London, being within a three-halfpenny ride by electric tram from any of the bridges, and three minutes from Brixton Station, on the S.E. and C. Railway, and from East Brixton, on the L.B. and S.C. Railway; eight minutes from Clapham Road and Clapham Common Stations, on the City and South London Tube.

The occasion will afford splendid opportunities for meeting philatelic friends, and all philatelists, whether members or not, will be welcomed.

Tickets of admission, price one shilling each, postage free, may be had of the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Music will be provided, and teas and refreshments will be served in the grounds, which will be open from 3.30 till 10 p.m.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Danish Letter

COPENHAGEN, July, 1905.

King's Heads to Come

SINCE my last letter, there has not been anything in our country of interest to philatelists. The remainder of the stamps with the King's Head has still to be awaited, because the big stocks of the old stamps are to be used first, so the new ones will not appear before the month of October or November.

New Danish Colonials

But there are novelties from our colonies, St. Thomas and St. Jan in the West Indies, and more will be issued. The post offices there have got new Unpaid Letter stamps of the new coinage, 5, 20, 30, and 50 bits, printed in red and grey colours, the centre showing the value in big figures. These stamps are not sold unused from the post offices, so it will be rather difficult to get them in unused state. The new stamps with the King's Head are printed and sent to the islands, but are still not delivered to the public, because they are wanting change in the new coinage,

so these new stamps will not be current before October.

The stamps are very nicely made in the following colours: 10 bits, one colour, red; 20 bits, light green blue head; 25 bits, one colour, blue; 40 bits, brick red, grey head; 50 bits, yellow, grey head.

In the corners there is a royal crown; the inscription is CHRISTIAN DEN 9^{DE} and DANSK VESTINDIEN.

Later there will be issued values of 1, 2, and francs; these will be of a larger size and another design.

These stamps have been drawn by an architect, M. Jensen Klint, and they are printed by Mr. H. Thiele, book-printer, Copenhagen.

Old Colonials to be Withdrawn

As soon as these new stamps are made current, the old stamps will be withdrawn and returned to the values. There will be no surcharge of provisionally values.

The philatelic papers often are mistaken in the new coinage of the Danish West Indies; 1 bit equals centime.

CORRESPONDENCE

Animals on Stamps

DEAR SIR,—May I point out that Mr. Oldfield has made several mistakes in the names he has given to various animals depicted on stamps? One is, calling the animal on the postal fiscal of Tasmania a beaver!! Beavers do not inhabit Tasmania, but are confined to Europe and America. I should have thought everybody knew the extraordinary animal called the *duck-billed platypus* (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*), which combines the characteristics of mammals and birds, and is no more a beaver than a human being, and which is restricted to Southern and Eastern Australia and Tasmania.

Also the 5 c. stamps of Labuan and North Borneo do not depict a peacock, but an *argus* pheasant (*Argusianus grayi*), not *Argusianus giganteus*, which is not found in Borneo.

Again, the stamps of French Congo do not illustrate a tiger, for the tiger does not inhabit the African continent: the animal is a leopard, as is evident by its spots.

Mr. Oldfield also states that "the parrot or quetzal" is to be seen on the stamps of Guatemala. That would lead one to expect they were birds of the same species, though the quetzal (*Pharomacrus mocinno*) is a trogon, more closely allied to the well-known humming-bird class, and has nothing whatever to do with a parrot.

The 4 c. of Labuan and North Borneo, strictly speaking, does not represent a monkey, but a species of ape (for apes are tailless), viz. the orang-utang.

The bear on the Labuan and North Borneo 10 c. is the peculiar tree-loving Malayan bear (*Ursus malayanus*).

I hope this letter will dispel any false ideas about the species of animals mentioned.

Yours truly, L. W. CROUCH

THE TWELVE UGLIEST POSTAGE STAMPS

OUR FOURTH PRIZE COMPETITION

OUR Fourth Prize Competition asked competitors to name the twelve ugliest postage stamps of the world.

The competitors had an embarrassing selection to make from the very wide range of the stamps of the world, and their own aggregate votes have decided the final selection and the prize winners, all of which was duly published on the cover of our number for 8th July, 1905.

We now set out the chosen twelve.

They certainly are a charming lot. No one will be surprised to find a good sprinkling of the crudities of the Native Indian States amongst them. Still, it is just possible that Major Evans, as the historian of the stamps of the Native States of India, may be able to assure us that these gibbeted designs are regarded as gems of art by the issuing states.

But what will our New South Wales friends say to second place for their current 2½d. stamp?

Why the simple 4 baj. of the Roman States should be included in the list to the exclusion of scores of inferior designs is a bit of a puzzle.

No. 1. BUNDI.



1894. ½ a.

No. 2. NEW SOUTH WALES.



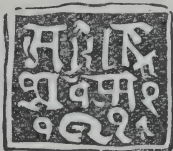
1897. 2½d.

No. 3. JHALAWAR.



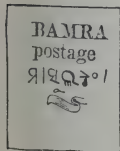
1887-90. ¼ a.

No. 4. SORUTH.



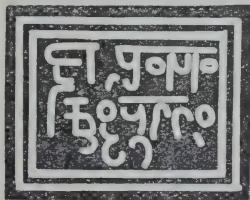
1864. 1 a.

No. 5. BAMRA.



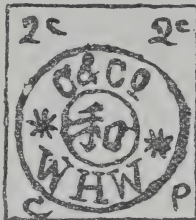
1890. ¼ a.

No. 6. BHOR.



1879. 1 a.

No. 7. WEI-HAI-WEI.



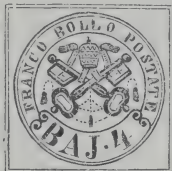
1898-9. 2 c.

No. 8. KISHENGARH.



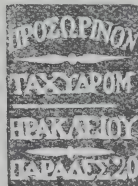
1899-1902. 2 a.

No. 9. ROMAN STATES.



1867. 20 c.

No. 10. CRETE.



1898. 20 par.

No. 11. FRENCH CONGO.



1900. 2 c.

No. 12. BHOR.



1879. ½ a.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

A. V. (Warwickshire).—If you do not want to spend much money you had better not attempt to specialise in Lagos, Gold Coast, or Gambia, unless you are content to begin with the King's Head issues, as the early issues are full of expensive stamps. Even Northern and Southern Nigeria are now sprinkled with expensive stamps, and there is the further disadvantage, in the case of West Africans, that used copies, as a rule, are no cheaper than unused.

Malta or Sudan would be a better choice for you.

Gibraltar, India, and Hong Kong are all more or less expensive.

C. H. G. F. (Dulwich).—We do not know of any postage stamp inscribed "Julen." The Hospital Fund stamps are of no philatelic value.

R. M. R. (Edinburgh).—Any English stamps might pass through an Indian post office by an oversight, but not otherwise. Such stamps might be regarded as curiosities, but would not be considered as of any philatelic value.

C. O. F. (Loughrea).—The only satisfactory method of keeping stamps loose without hinges is that adopted in books for holding duplicates sold by our publishers, which are provided with paper shelves.

We do not see any advantage in such an album as you suggest, but many disadvantages, not the least of which would be risk of the loose stamps slipping out and getting lost. Stamps properly hinged are easily removed and replaced.

Your Portuguese Indies, "Type 25, 1½ reis, yellow-

orange, perf 11½," must be Gibbons' No. 307, 1898-1900, described as pale red.

E. R. R. (Edinburgh).—Yes, all the English Officials have been discontinued. You certainly did get a bargain in £1 worth of unused Indian stamps for 2s. 6d. The Queen's Head 3 rupees, unused, is now catalogued at 6s. and the 5 rupees at 10s. Thank you for your good wishes for Vol. II. of *G.S.W.*

J. C. (Brighton).—We do not want any cuttings that have to be returned. We do not know of any 5 c., orange, of the 1891-7 issue of Holland. You will find the differences between reprints and originals of most countries fully described in Mr. E. D. Bacon's book on "Reprints," published by Stanley Gibbons. We cannot spare the space to repeat the information here.

The 1d. carmine-red of the De La Rue printing was printed in error on Crown CC paper, but it is unknown used, and it is very doubtful if it was ever issued. Stamps overprinted SPECIMEN are stamps generally sent out officially as samples of stamps issued or to be issued. Forgeries are of no value except as curiosities or for study by specialists. Some reprints are of more value than originals, but, generally speaking, reprints are of no philatelic value except for study by specialists. The 2d. value was added to the Samoa Express series when the stamps were reprinted. It was never included in the original issue. We could not spare the space to repeat the questions of our correspondents. Morocco locals are of no philatelic value. A Colombia 5 c., blue, issued in 1904, is listed, but whether it is what you term a new one we cannot say.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in ar cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kind co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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Whole No. 32

12 AUGUST, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Antigua



government. It lies about forty miles east of Nevis and about the same distance north of the French possession of Guadeloupe. It has a population of 37,000 and an area of 108 square miles. Its capital is St. John, with a population of 10,000.

It is described as being twenty-eight miles long by twenty broad. Its coast is deeply indented and broken into bays and peninsulas with high and rocky shores, in contrast to the usual uniform outline of these islands. The whole island is beautifully diversified by hill and dale, and the highest elevation, the Shackerley Mountains, reaches 1,500 feet. The chief productions are sugar and pineapples, and there are many small estates in cultivation.

The island was discovered by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. He then sighted and named Dominica, Montserrat, Redonda, Antigua, and the Virgin Islands. Antigua was named after the church of Santa Maria la Antigua at Seville. It was settled by the British in 1632, and except for a few months of French occupation during the war with France and the Netherlands in 1666 it has ever since remained under the British flag.

Still, its history has been somewhat chequered. First it formed part of a general government of the Caribbean Islands. In 1816 they were separated into two divisions, Antigua and Mont-

THE Leeward Islands form a group of the West Indies off the north coast of Venezuela. Antigua is the chief island of this group and the seat of its federal

serrat forming one, St. Kitts, Nevis, and the Virgin Islands the other. In 1833 they were reunited under one governor, Dominica being then added to the group. In 1871 the Leeward Islands were formed into a federal colony.

The most exciting periods of its history were a rising of the blacks at a time when, out of a population of 26,000, some 22,000 were negroes; and on the establishment of the Commonwealth, when the island got into trouble over its royalist proclivities, for which it was punished by the placing of a prohibition upon its foreign trade.

Its Philatelic History

Its philatelic history has been more chequered and less honourable than its political history. For many years it was a philatelically well-conducted colony. It started its postal issues with a single stamp of Perkins Bacon & Co.'s printing in 1862; then it passed through the Star, CC, and CA stages, and closed its account with stamp collectors on the 31st October, 1890, after which date it used the Leeward Islands series, issued for common use by all the colonies of the group. The loss of revenue consequent upon this change was a serious item, and led in 1903 to the issue of a supplementary series, labelled "Antigua," and made for the purpose of collecting revenue from stamp collectors, the general Leeward Islands series being continued in use at the same time. There are, therefore, now two sets of stamps in use, one the Leeward Islands series common to all the islands, and a special set for separate sale in the island.

1862. A 6d. value, printed from copper plates by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., London. No watermark; perforated.



No Wmk. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 6d., blue-green | 50 0 | 30 0 |

1863. Two values of the same design, printed, as before, from copper plates by

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. Watermarked with a Star and perforated.

| | Wmk. Star. | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------|------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., red | . | . | 6 0 | 3 6 |
| 6d., green | . | . | 15 0 | 4 0 |

1873. Design unchanged, but printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co., London, from the old plates made by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. Paper watermarked with a Crown and CC; perforated.

| | Wmk. Crown CC. | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., red | . | . | 2 6 | 2 6 |
| 6d., green | . | . | 25 0 | 6 0 |

1879. Two values, 2½d. and 4d.; new design; surface-printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. Paper watermarked as before, Crown and CC; perforated. The 2½d. stamp of this issue with the Crown and CC watermark is the rarest stamp of the colony.



| | Wmk. Crown CC. | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2½d., red-brown | . | . | 60 0 | 40 0 |
| 4d., blue | . | . | 30 0 | 3 0 |

1882. Three values, ½d., 2½d., and 4d., of the new design of the last issue, but with the watermark changed to Crown CA. Perforated.

| | Wmk. Crown CA. | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., green | . | . | 0 3 | 0 4 |
| 2½d., red-brown | . | . | 15 0 | 5 0 |
| 4d., blue | . | . | 25 0 | 1 6 |

1884-6. Five values, 1d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. The 1d. and 6d. stamps were reissues of the first design, and the ½d., 2½d., 4d., and 1s. were of the second type. All were watermarked Crown CA, and perforated, and constituted the last series issued by the little colony of Antigua for honest postal purposes.

| | Wmk. Crown CA. | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., carmine | . | . | 0 4 | 0 6 |
| 2½d., ultramarine | . | . | 0 9 | 0 6 |
| 4d., brown | . | . | 1 0 | 0 8 |
| 6d., green | . | . | 5 0 | 10 0 |
| 1s., lilac | . | . | 30 0 | 25 0 |

1903. After the lapse of thirteen years, during which the Leeward Islands series served all the postal purposes of the colony, a supplementary series of elaborate design was unblushingly manufactured and placed on sale with the statement that they might be used concurrently with the ordinary Leeward Islands series. There are two designs, one a copy of the seal of the colony for the values except the 5s., and the King's Head on the 5s. Ten values, printed in two colours. All watermarked Crown C.C.

Perforated.



Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., grey-green and black | . 0 1 | — |
| 1d., scarlet | . 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 2d., brown and purple | . 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 2½d., ultramarine and black | . 0 4 | — |
| 3d., orange-brown & grey-green | . 0 5 | — |
| 6d., black and magenta | . 0 8 | — |
| 1s., purple and ultramarine | . 1 4 | — |
| 2s., „ grey-green | . 2 8 | — |
| 2s. 6d., magenta and black | . 3 3 | — |
| 5s., violet and grey-green | . 6 6 | — |

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 85.)

Name of the Country (continued)

THERE are two issues of the Dutch Indies which call for a few words of description. Both have for a central design the bust of King William III. In the 1864 issue the inscription reads NEDERL INDIE POST ZEGEL, which, being interpreted, means "Netherland Indies Post Stamp." In the issue of 1870 the inscription is still further abbreviated to NED. INDIE.

DUTCH INDIES.



1864.



1870-82.

Naples and Sicily, formerly the kingdom of the "Two Sicilies," were united

to Piedmont in 1861. Postage stamps were first issued in 1858. Although united under one King, each kingdom had its own postal administration, and consequently the stamps of Naples were different from those of Sicily. The 1858 issue of Naples had, for the central design, the Arms of the Two Sicilies. On the left was the horse of Naples; on the right was the symbol of Sicily—three human legs joined to the head of Medusa, which latter was a common form of adornment on Grecian shields. The three fleurs-de-lis in the lower part of the design remind one of the Spanish invasion of Naples in 1734, when Charles of Bourbon, son of the King of Spain, became King of the Two Sicilies.

The central design is the same in all the values. The frame enclosing the design varies in shape according to value. The currency was the ducat, worth about 3s. 4d. It was divided into 100 grana, or 300 tornese.

Garibaldi was the leading spirit in the

rebellion of 1860 against the rule of Francis II., son of the ruthless Ferdinand II. The patriot defeated the King's troops, entered Naples, and became dictator until the union with Piedmont in 1861. A reduction in the postage of newspapers to $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese caused a new issue of stamps. They were printed from the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano plate of 1858, the letter "G" having been altered to "T." Later in the same year this " $\frac{1}{2}$ grano" plate did duty for yet another issue. The central design was erased and the Cross of Savoy engraved instead of the Arms.



1858.



1860.

Charles III., son of Charles Louis of Bourbon, became Duke of Parma in 1849. The first issue of stamps appeared in 1852. The fleur-de-lis of the House of Bourbon appears in the central design. STATI PARM, *i.e.* "State of Parma," is the inscription.

PARMA.



1852.

The beginner whose knowledge of geography is a bit hazy will wonder where Ponta Delgada is. The name appears on several series of stamps on which is pictured the head of King Carlos of Portugal. Ponta Delgada is a large town on São Miguel, one of the islands in

the Azores group, which, by the way, is considered as a province, and not a colony, of Portugal.

PONTA DELGADA.



1892-3.

Portuguese India is responsible for several issues of stamps locally made. From 1871 to 1877 the stamps appeared with the inscription *SERVICO POSTAL INDIA PORT.* The designs, slightly different in the various issues, may be recognised from the accompanying illustration.

PORTUGUESE INDIA.



1871.

St. Thomas and Prince Islands lie off the west of the French Congo State. They are Portuguese possessions. The names appear on the stamps in the inscription *S. THOME E PRINCIPE.*

ST. THOMAS AND PRINCE ISLANDS.



1869.



1887.

(To be continued.)

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of Stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on Sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5,000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Colombia

THIS country has issued an alarming multitude of stamps, but it has decorated very few of them with portraits of its notable men. Its preference has been for the familiar Arms type surmounted with the Eagle of Liberty. But some of the so-called "sovereign" states comprised in the republic have quite made up for the omission. I propose to deal with the portraits on the stamps of the republic and its separate states, taking first those of Colombia itself.

Bolivar, Simon,



was a prominent figure in the war for independence which the South American colonies of Spain waged from 1810 to 1821. He was born at Carácas in 1783, and died at San Pedro, near Santa Marta, in 1830. He was a Venezuelan general and statesman, and when the War of Independence broke out he joined the insurgents, and served under Miranda in 1812. In the following year he captured Carácas, and was there named General of the Venezuelan forces and temporary Dictator, and received the title of "Liberator," but he was eventually forced to retire to Barcelona, and thence to Jamaica in May, 1815. In 1816 he was again in the field, and made a descent upon the Venezuelan coast, and took Angostura in 1817. A patriot Congress there confirmed Bolivar as Dictator. In 1819 he marched into New Grenada and formed a junction with Santander. The victory of Boyacá made him master of Bogotá and New Grenada. A Congress of Angostura now decreed the union of Venezuela and New Grenada in the Republic of Colombia, and Bolivar was elected President in 1819. He completely routed the Spanish army in Venezuela in

the battle of Carabobo on the 24th June, 1821, and entered Quito in the following year, adding the region now called Ecuador to Colombia. In 1823 he went to Lima, and was made Dictator of Peru. Sucre's victory at Ayacucho on 9th December, 1824, ended the Spanish rule in South America.

In June, 1825, Bolivar visited Upper Peru. A Congress met there in August, decreed the formation of the Republic of Bolivia, invited Bolivar to frame the constitution, and named him perpetual Protector. But Peru declared against him in 1826, and Bolivia soon followed, and though he remained President of the three countries forming Colombia until his death, the great Republic created by him fell to pieces soon after.

Mr. C. E. Akers, in his admirable *History of South America*, says of Bolivar: "The Liberator, after the extinction of Spanish rule in Peru, endeavoured to bring about a federation of the South American Republic into one great community, but his action was unacceptable to Chili and Buenos Aires, and aroused bitter jealousy in those states. Finding it impossible to realise his project, he returned to Colombia in 1826, internal disturbances in that country demanding his prompt attention. Revolutions against his authority had broken out in Venezuela and various districts of Colombia, and in the following year a war ensued between Peru and Colombia, the former insisting that Bolivar had attempted to bring that country under Colombian authority. From 1827 to the date of his death in December, 1830, the Liberator was the object of bitter enmity in Colombia, and was accused repeatedly of harbouring designs to found an imperial dynasty for his own benefit. He died a poor man, when only forty-seven, at Santa Maria, thoroughly disheartened by the turmoil of internal political dissension which embittered his latter years."

STANLEY GIBBONS PRICED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

JOHNSON MAJOR AND I

By C. RAYMOND MEGSON

JOHNSON major and I were the greatest of chums. We went to the nets together for cricket practice, we trained together for "footer," swam together, "swotted" together—in fact, were always together, and agreed upon everything save one. Johnson major collected stamps; I did not. This was the bone of contention over which we worried and growled and spoilt the harmony of our happiness. I wanted Johnson major not to collect; he used to bring all the persuasion he could muster to make me collect; but we both remained adamant, and stubborn as mules. He called stamp collecting "the royal road to the acquisition of knowledge"; he enlarged upon the intellectual pleasure to be derived from it; but all to no good—I would not be influenced. I was a silly youngster in those days.

I well remember one wet evening, when we were in the fifth form together at Bartray's, I went into his den with the intention of asking him to come and have a bout with the gloves; but as soon as I saw him I knew that threats and all the powers of persuasion would indeed be useless. There he was with his stamps, running them up and down a ladder-like arrangement of dots and dashes on granite cardboard, something like a weak imitation of a Morse code. "Perf. 16, large crown," he muttered; "good, good!" and smiled.

"What is 'good, good'?" I said.

"Why, perf. 16, large crown; it's more valuable, you know. Perf. 16, large crown, perf. 14, small crown; always good, you know."

"Oh!" I ejaculated. "But do you mean to tell me that because the notches (imagine calling perfs. "notches"; I was a silly youngster in those days, and no mistake) round a stamp happen to be bigger or smaller they make a stamp worth the more?"

He looked at me with that superior look of his which he always adopted when talking "stamps," said nothing, but sneered. Yes, he actually sneered. I felt like—well, only Johnson major was a bigger chap than I.

"It shows what silly fatheads you philatelists are, then," I said; jolly wild I was, too. I expected Johnson to chuck something at me; but he didn't.

I felt beastly tired and bored; nothing to do, Johnson at his stamps, wet evening; so I sat down, and just had a look at his album. Not that I felt any interest in it—oh, no! Better than doing nothing, you know. I have even looked at beastly cigarette pictures to fill up time. Johnson continued poking and playing with his stamps. The silence became simply unbearable. I felt I must break it, or else go demented and do something silly—perhaps promise to start stamp collecting. (Who said "Ugh?") So I remarked in the most off-hand voice I could assume: "Where the intellectual pleasure comes in, I don't know, Johnson."

He looked at me, and said sententiously, "Don't you?"

"No, hanged if I do! I don't think I could get much inspiration from this Johnny even *with* the garland on his brow." I was looking at his French stamps at the time. Now, I do believe that Johnson major was actually pleased that I even looked at his stamps.

He came round to my side of the table, and said, "I'll tell you why these stamps are interesting, even those depicting the Johnny *without* the garland on his brow."

I always had a suspicion that Johnson major was a bit sarcastic.

Well, he told me that when French stamps were first issued, the country was a republic, and that Ceres, the goddess of corn, was depicted thereon. I think it is the goddess of corn; but, you know, I am not a brainy chap like Johnson major; he's awfully clever. Then he told me that France was made into an empire, and the stamps were altered to bear the head of the then ruling emperor. He explained that the laurel leaf was added to signalise Napoleon's victories in Italy, and how France again became a republic, and has remained so ever since, and told me that the whole history of this country is writ on its postage stamps. He then explained how the stamps of the

Sudan were of great historical interest; how the native Mussulmans objected to moisten the mucilage on a stamp bearing a Christian symbol. You know, these stamps were first watermarked with a cross, which was considered as undoubtedly pertaining to the Christian faith; this was then changed to a crescent and star. A native rising was thus averted, and everybody was happy.

I was getting jolly interested, you know; but I would not let him have the least suspicion of it—oh, no! Wouldn't he have crowed over me, eh? The stamps of St. Kitts, depicting Columbus using a telescope, struck my fancy. Why, anybody knows that Christopher died in the year 1506, and telescopes were not invented until the year 1608. What an outrageous error to perpetrate on a postage stamp, isn't it? Why, I knew better than that—at least, when Johnson major told me.

Johnson major knows I have a pretty keen sense of humour, and thinking no doubt that he could interest me the more, turned to his stamps of Nyassa. Pointing to the 1901 issue, portraying a giraffe reaching the edible fruit at the top of a palm, he said, "If only that enterprising quadruped could become advertising manager for a firm, it would make that firm's fortune."

"How is that?" I said.

"Why," he chuckled, "its ways are far-reaching and up to date."

Wicked, atrocious joke, wasn't it? But Johnson major always was a rare old wag.

We shut up his album after that, and as I was leaving him, I said, by way of a joke, "If you will give me a blue Mauritius to start a collection, I will join you at once as a philatelist."

"Will you?" he replied. "Shake hands upon it." We shook, and a bargain was sealed.

The next day Johnson major brought me a little grease-proof envelope with a stamp inside. "I've brought the foundation of your collection," he said.

I felt staggered. I always thought a blue Mauritius was worth about two thousand pounds. I looked at the enclosure and beheld an eight cent stamp of Mauritius, 1879 issue. "I meant the 'Post Office' Mauritius," I blurted out.

"You should have said so," he replied. "You distinctly said 'a blue Mauritius,' and there is one; a bargain is a bargain."

Oh! a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. I was fairly beaten at last by Johnson major. So I bought an album and a packet of stamps and started as a philatelist.

And now I love my stamps. I am getting on, too. I can talk of stops above the line, and on the line, pelure paper, serrated perfs., roulettes, large stars, small stars, and sundry other philatelic etceteras, and know what they mean, too.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

A Royal Philatelic Society

It will be possible some of these fine days to form a very respectable Royal Philatelic Society, with a membership confined to crowned heads and their families. Already we have the Prince of Wales, whose two eldest boys are both keen collectors; then there is the Princess Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, the Mikado of Japan, the Prince of Siam, and, I have no doubt, a number of others whose names have not yet come into philatelic prominence. Indeed, it is a sign of the times that Philately is making great headway amongst the higher classes of society. We should hear a great deal more than we do about titled collectors but that

every dealer who gets to know them keeps his knowledge as dark as possible, lest the joker across the way may get sending the new client some of his rubbishy approval sheets. Before founding a Royal Philatelic Society it would be necessary to ascertain whether it would be approved of by the Shah of Europe.

That Prospectus

THEY say it's all but ready for issue, but there remains the fact that it is not yet issued. I refer, of course, to the anxiously awaited programme of the forthcoming International Philatelic Exhibition. Will someone kindly wake them up, and remind them that "Barkis is willin' and

waitin'” to see that programme? Our appetites have been so sharpened by various hints as to its superiority to anything that has gone before, that we shall have to proceed to extreme measures unless we receive our copy very soon.

Ladies on the Committee

I AM told that ladies are very backward in coming forward to join the Committee of the Exhibition. It wants some titled lady to lead the way; then the ice would be broken, and we should have a ladies' annexe in no time. It is to be hoped that there will nevertheless be a ladies' committee, for ladies could do an immense amount of influential work in the direction of making the show a great success.

Picture Stamps

I VENTURE to predict that the coming season will be a very prolific one from the picture stamp point of view. It is evident that the stamp factories are making a note of the great success which has attended some picture series, notably the New Zealand set. The French Colo-

nies are, one by one, being supplied with stamps which display in miniature some interesting scene, or bird or animal peculiar to each particular colony.

The Kagu of New Caledonia

THE new set just out for New Caledonia has a strange-looking bird for the central design of its lower values that bothers me a great deal, but I ran him down at last in *Newton's Dictionary of Birds* at the Kagu, an almost extinct species peculiar to New Caledonia. It is an extremely curious bird, and was discovered after the French occupation of the island in 1852. It was first regarded as a heron then as a crane. But when two live specimens were received at our Zoological Gardens, Mr. Bartlett established its affinity to the Sun Bittern. It is described as a rather long-legged bird, about as large as an ordinary fowl, with bright red bill and legs, large eyes, a full pendent crest and is generally of a light slate colour paler beneath, and obscurely barred on its longer wing coverts and tail with a darker shade.

CUI BONO?

A PHILATELIST'S REPLY

THINK kindly, pray; do not despise
What may seem useless in your eyes
Before you have consider'd well!
See what these "paper medals" tell:
The graver's tool, the artist's skill,
A worthy purpose here fulfil;
By value, portrait, symbol, date,
The Stamp can show the Realm or State:
On this small square you look, and find
An index of a nation's mind!

In every cultivated race
These little messengers find place:
These fragile links bind land to land,
And aid the love of heart and hand;
Through them the Treasury chests o'erflow,
And Nations countless thanks will owe
That Englishman whose active brain
Contriv'd this fairy flow of gain!
As notes on music's varied page
Touch all the chords from youth to age,
So in this book, in fancied chime,
We range these silent notes of time;
Suggesting to the thoughtful eye
The fitful strains of history.

Here, as in mimic gallery plac'd,
Portraits of fair and great are trac'd;
Kings, Emperors, and Chiefs of fame,
Queens—with our own of honour'd name—

And pictur'd stories of each land
From frozen shore to sunny strand:
St. Salvador with flaming crest,
Or Nicaragua's vales of rest;
From Costa Rica's tropic steeps,
To where the Alpine Gentian peeps;
Peru can show her Llamas fleet,
Canadians their shrewd Beaver greet;
Australia's Swan floats proudly by,
Newfoundland's Seals on icebergs lie;
"The Stars and Stripes" their history trace
From Britain's world-encircling race;
While Virgin Islands gladly boast
"Our Lady" still defends their coast!
In happy proof that all are kin,
Each language sends its tribute in;
And, token of fraternal band,
The sign is pass'd from hand to hand:
Babel's confusion here is still'd,
Another tongue the world has fill'd;
And races, that with jealous caste
All others shunn'd for ages past,
Ancient traditions now forget,
To join the world's new alphabet!

Thus, as each chequer'd page we turn,
The course of dynasties we learn;
While art and history combine
To make me PRIZE THESE STAMPS OF MINE!

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British South Africa.—Here is the British South Africa Company's official announcement of the Victoria Falls series chronicled on page 89:—



"THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION'S VISIT TO RHODESIA.
OPENING OF THE VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE ON
THE CAPE-TO-CAIRO RAILWAY.

"In connection with the forthcoming visit of the British Association to Rhodesia the British South Africa Company have issued a special set of postage stamps, consisting of 1d., 2½d., 5d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 5s., the design of which represents a magnificent view of the Victoria Falls. This issue will also serve to commemorate the formal opening, during the British Association's visit to the Falls, of the bridge across the Zambesi River, one of the greatest engineering marvels of modern times, and a most important link in the Cape-to-Cairo Railway."

Denmark.—We have received a new 4 øre of striking, not to say peculiar, design. Whether it is intended only for low values, or is to be the type of the new series in preference to the two recently issued portrait stamps, remains to be seen.



Perf.
4 øre, blue.

Guadeloupe.—We now illustrate the franc values chronicled but not illustrated on p. 73.



We are informed that the view on the low values is intended to represent Basse Terre, the capital of Guadeloupe, with Mount Houlemon. The view on the middle values represents La Soufrière, and that on the high values the shore at Pointe-à-Pitre.

Morocco Agencies.—*Exen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the receipt of the 50 c. of the single CA King's Head series.



Wmk. Single CA. Perf.

5 c., grey-green and green.
10 c., purple on red paper.
20 c., grey-green and carmine.
25 c., lilac and black on blue.
50 c., violet.

Portuguese Colonies.—In vol. i., page 380, we listed a lot of provisionals for these colonies then reported to be in course of printing. We have now received the following, all (except the Portuguese Indies, which is Gibbons' Type 25) surcharged on the current colonial type with numeral of value in right-hand upper corner. The original corner figures are barred out, and the new value in large figures with the word REIS under in the centre of the stamp.



Angola.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Cabo Verde.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Congo.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Guiné.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

India

2 tangas on 2½ tangas, blue.

Inhambané.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Lourenço Marques.
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Macau.

10 avos on 12 avos, mauve.

Moçambique.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

S. Thomé e Príncipe.
50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Timor.

10 avos on 12 avos, blue.

Zambécia.

50 reis on 65 reis, blue.

Sudan.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a copy of the 1 millième, carmine frame and brown centre, watermarked multiple Star and Crescent. This stamp, like others of the set on the multiple paper, was chronicled long ago, but has only just been issued.



Wmk. Multiple Star and Crescent. Perf.

- | | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 1 m., | carmine, brown centre. |
| 2 m., | brown, green " |
| 3 m., | green, mauve " |
| 5 m., | black, carmine " |
| 1 p., | brown, blue " |
| 2 p., | blue, black " |

Transvaal.—We have received the 1s. stamp on the multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C A. Perf.

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| ½ d., | green, centre black. |
| 1 d., | carmine " |
| 2½ d., | ultramarine " |
| 6 d., | orange " |
| 1s., | red-brown, centre slate. |

Venezuela.—We have received some wall plasters with a respectable mechanic's portrait, with symbolic figures on each side, and the date "23 de May" without year. Presumably the stamps are intended to commemorate some one of the usual cut-throat insurrections familiar in Venezuela. Each stamp occupies a wall space of 1½ in. long by 1½ in. width.

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| <i>Perf.</i> | |
| 5 centimos, | red. |
| 10 " | blue. |
| 25 " | yellow. |

MISCELLANEOUS

Revolutions and Postage Stamps

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News (U.S.A.) has had an interesting competition on the question "How many Revolutions have been signalized by changes in Postage Stamps?"

We quote the result from the columns of our contemporary:—

"We have received five answers to this problem, the best list being submitted by Rev. L. C. Walter and followed in order by Henry H. Hart, Jr., J. Arthur Wainwright, K. K. Stevens, and Fred Lindenau.

"It has proved somewhat difficult to know just where to draw the line in some cases, but we have taken the question at its obvious meaning of postal changes directly due to revolutions or rebellions. This eliminates such stamps as the United States Centennial envelopes and the Servian Coronation issue, both of which commemorate revolutions, but whose issue was not exactly due to them.

"1. United States, 1861 issue. The confiscation of the U.S. stamps of the 1857-60 issues by Southern postmasters when the Civil War broke out, caused the immediate preparation of the 1861 issue and the demonetization of all previous issues when the latter appeared.

"2. Confederate States: Provisional and Regular. These stamps replaced the regular United States stamps in the seceding States for a period of five years during the Civil War.

"3. Brazil, 1890 issue. Overthrow of the Monarchy, Nov. 15-16, 1889, and establishment of the Republic.

"4. Colombia, issues of various cities (Scott Nos. 167, 311) and State issues of the same period due to interrupted communications with the central government on account of the insurrection in progress from 1900 through 1902.

"5. Crete, 1898 issue. The issue of a stamp for Crete signalized the virtual overthrow of Turkish rule. The rebellion of 1897-8 had for its aim annexation to Greece, but the defeat of the latter country in the war with Turkey in 1897-8 resulted in practical autonomy for Crete under Prince George of Greece, who represents the Great Powers responsible for the government of the island.

"6. Cuba, Habilitados of 1868. This surcharged set, as well as the set of 1869, was due to the revolution in Spain which dethroned Queen Isabella II. in 1868.

"7. Cuba, 1875 issue. Signalizes the overthrow of the Spanish republic and restoration of the monarchy.

"8. Cuba, Puerto Principe surcharges and U.S. stamps surcharged. These issues signalized the success of the last Cuban insurrection aided by the United States.

"8a. Cuba, Republic issue of 1873. As there is much doubt about the authenticity of this stamp, which undoubtedly never did any real postal service, it should hardly be considered. As it was submitted, however, and has a place in the catalogue (Scott No. 601), we have given it for what it may be worth.

"9. France, 1870 issue. Scott's numbers 37-47 are the so-called 'Bordeaux issue' of November, and 48-53 the stamps issued in Paris, in October, which signalized the overthrow of the Second Empire and the establishment of the Third Republic, following the defeat and capture of Napoleon III. at Sedan, September 2, 1870.

"10. France, Offices in China, 1900 issue. These surcharges were issued in Peking as a result of the conditions due to the Boxer rebellion of 1900.

"11. French Colonies, 1871-2 issues. All stamps of these issues inscribed REPUB FRANC should be included with 9.

"12. Hawaii, Provisional Government surcharges of 1893. These signalize the overthrow of the monarchy.

"13. Hayti, 1902 issue. The surcharge applied to the 1898-9 issue denotes the overthrow of President Am and the establishment of the Provisional Government in May, 1902.

"14. India, C.E.F. surcharges of 1900. These stamps were the result of the Boxer rebellion in China which the 'Chinese Expeditionary Force,' sent by India, elped to quell.

"15. Mexico, 1867 issue. The reissue of the first type of the Mexican stamps, surcharged 'Mexico' in Gothic letters, signalized the overthrow of Maximilian's empire when the supporting French army was withdrawn, and the re-establishment of the Republic.

"16. Modena, 1859 issue. This issue was due to the overthrow of the princely house of Este (*vide* OSTE ESTENSI on the issue of 1852), Duke Francis V. having been deposed in that year.

"17. Panama, surcharges of 1903-4 on the Colombian and former state stamps. Signalize the revolution of Nov. 3, 1903, when independence of Colombia was declared.

"18. Paraguay. The revolution of last year was responsible for a 10 c. stamp inscribed 'Gobierno Provisorio' and 'Agosto 1904,' besides a similar surcharge on the regular government set.

"19. Parma, 1859 issue. Overthrow of the Ducal government and establishment of the Provisional government in 1859.

"20. Philippines, Habilitados of 1868. These surcharges are to be grouped with 6, being the result of the dethronement of Queen Isabella.

"21. Philippines, 1875-6 issue. Signalizes the overthrow of the Spanish republic and the restoration of the monarchy.

"22. Philippines, Aguinaldo stamps. These have as much right to a place in the catalogue as the 'Carlist' stamps of Spain. They signalize the rebellion of the Filipinos against occupation of the islands by the United States.

"23. Porto Rico, 1875 issue. Signalizes the overthrow of the Spanish republic and the restoration of the monarchy.

"24. Rhodesia, surcharges, Scott Nos. 40-9. These surcharges were caused by the cutting off of the regular stamp supplies due to the Matabele uprising.

"25. Roumania, 1866 issue. Prince Couza was deposed in 1866 and the new issue of that year shows the Prince (now King) Charles, who was elected to take his place.

"26. Salvador, 1895 issue, first type surcharged with arms. This issue was prepared with the features of Pres. Ezeta as a centre-piece, but a revolution ending his career before their issue, his successor had them surcharged for temporary use while the second set was being made ready.

"27. Samoa, Provisional Government surcharge of 1899. This surcharge signalizes the ending of the strife due to the claimants to the throne, and the establishment of the 'Tripartite' government by the representatives of England, Germany, and the United States.

"28. Servia, 1903 issue. The surcharged issue signalizes the overthrow of the government and assassination of King Alexander by an army clique opposed to him and his methods.

"29. South Bulgaria, surcharges of 1885. These were due to the revolution of September, 1885, by which the Sultan's government of Eastern Roumelia (which was its previous name) was overthrown and annexation to Bulgaria declared.

"30. Spain, Habilitados of 1868-9. These have been already noted under 6 and 20 as being due to the rebellion against Queen Isabella II. and her banishment in 1868.

"31. Spain, 1875 issue. This signalizes the overthrow of the republic, established in 1873 after the abdication of Amadeus, and the re-establishment of the monarchy under Alfonso XII. (See 7, 21, and 23.)

"32. Spain, Carlist stamps (Scott Nos. 501-11). Issued by Don Carlos, pretender to the Spanish throne, during his unsuccessful rebellion, 1872-5.

"33. Transvaal, 1882-3 issues (Scott Nos. 94-8). Signalize the successful revolt of the Boers against Great Britain, by which their virtual independence was restored.

"34. Tuscany, 1860 issue. Issued by the Provisional Government after Grand Duke Leopold II. had been deposed in 1859.

"35. Uruguay, 1897 issue. The surcharge PAZ (Spanish 'Peace') signalizes the close of a rebellion in that year.

"36. Uruguay, 1904 issue. The same word surcharged on the 1, 2, and 5 c. stamps of this issue signalizes the close of another rebellion in 1904.

"37. Venezuela, 1893 issue (Scott Nos. 90-104). The surcharging of these stamps was due to the fact that large quantities of unsurcharged stamps were looted from post offices by revolutionists.

"38. Venezuela, 1900 issue (Scott Nos. 130-56). These surcharges were due to the same causes as the last.

"It might be added that the first issues of Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, and Bosnia have a good claim to belong in this class. Rebellions against the Turks took place in all three during the Turko-Russian war in 1877-8, and after the war they were more or less freed from Turkish rule by the Treaty of Berlin. Distinctive stamps were immediately issued in Bulgaria and Bosnia, and some two years later the surcharge R.O. for Eastern Roumelia appeared on the Turkish stamps."

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a permanent Album we have provided from one to four blank pages after each country, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 120 pages. Size, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XVI (continued)

What a woman wills—

A FEW promenaders, drawn by curiosity, had gathered round them and had not lost a word of the discussion, which they found very diverting in its originality and unexpectedness. They saw the captain reflect for a minute, as if seeking some means of giving his exacting passenger a little help.

"Indeed, mademoiselle," he said at length, "it grieves me deeply that such a misfortune should happen to you, but there is only one thing I can do to prove it—"

"Oh, what is that? Tell me quickly."

"Do not expect too much. It has nothing to do with taking you back. But if you wish to send instructions to France immediately concerning the subject which troubles you, without awaiting your arrival in New York, which means a week's delay, I can telegraph."

"Telegraph!" said Betty in astonishment.

"Certainly, mademoiselle. The passengers have the right of corresponding, by signals, with the semaphores, while the steamer is in sight of the coast, and the semaphore sends the telegram on in the ordinary form. For a good half-hour yet we can be seen by the semaphore at La Hève. After that time I can promise nothing on account of the haze and the distance."

"I am much obliged to you," said Miss Betty, who could not refrain from a little dryness. And, without contending any further, she leaned on her elbows on the side of the steamer, feeling furious in her helplessness.

"Telegraph!" she mused. "What would be the good of that? To whom? For what? That could not justify me in the eyes of William Keniss, or give me any information concerning the real stamp."

Several of those who had heard this extraordinary conversation came up to the captain and began to make merry over the exorbitant desires of the young girl. But one of them left this group and drew nearer to her.

"Will you pardon me, mademoiselle, if I speak to you without having the honour of your acquaintance?" he said.

"What do you want with me, sir?" she returned severely enough, thinking perhaps that this might be a second Sir Oscar.

"Nothing but what may be to your advantage, mademoiselle," said the new-comer. "I think I understood that you have a great desire to return to land?"

"That is quite true."

"Would it be early enough for you if you were to arrive in Paris to-morrow morning?"

"What! Have you any means to suggest?" asked the girl with a quick flash of hope.

"Perhaps."

"Oh, do tell me quickly! You are killing me with suspense."

"Well, the captain offered to send a telegram for you. Why not telegraph to the Tug Company at Cherbourg?"

"I do not see how that would help me."

"The captain refuses to let you have one of his boats, but he could not refuse to put you on board one sent to meet you."

Betty listened breathlessly, but without, as yet, comprehending the idea.

"I will explain," continued the unknown. "Give the Tug Company an order to send one of their steamers to cross the line of route of the *Bretagne*. We shall be off Cherbourg in about four hours, so you will just have time."

"Oh, thank you," And Miss Betty, who knew how to act on sudden resolutions, ran to the captain, and, surrounded as he was by a numerous group, without concerning herself as to whether they listened or not, said—

"I will accept the offer you made me just now."

"Very good, mademoiselle; kindly write down what you wish me to say."

On a leaf torn from her memorandum book she wrote rapidly these few words:—

"TUG COMPANY,

"CHERBOURG.

"Send immediately, at any cost, quick steamer to meet *Bretagne* about to pass off Cherbourg en route for New York. Urgent.

"BETTY SCOTT."

Then she handed the paper to the captain, who, after reading it, shook his head.

"It would be quite useless, mademoiselle, for I could not allow you to go on board."

"Oh, indeed! Why not, if you please?"

"Because to do that I must stop the boat, and my time is limited, except for circumstances over which I have no control. Moreover, you are on the list of my passengers, and I am equally responsible for you, if you will forgive my saying so."

"I will absolve you from that responsibility."

"It is not in your power, mademoiselle."

These perpetual objections irritated the girl to a degree.

"Then you refuse to send my message?" she cried.

"By no means. I simply felt that I ought to point out the uselessness of it."

"Never mind that. Send it."

"I will do so at once. But let it be well understood that I have given you due warning." And the captain looked round on his auditors as if to appeal to them as witnesses, and went off to give his orders to the officer in charge of the signals. The flag was soon hoisted on the mizzen-mast to warn the signalman at the semaphore that there was a communication to receive, and, almost immediately, the glasses directed towards the cliffs of La Hève saw the red and white flag which showed that their signal was seen.

The passengers, interested in these manœuvres, now kept their eyes fixed on the vessel's mast. Along the rope, which mounted and descended with marvellous rapidity, carrying to the masthead the signals which served to interpret the words of the telegram, they saw in succession all the flags used for corresponding at a distance—the red, the yellow and blue, the white with the red cross of St. Andrew, the red with the yellow cross, the white chequered with blue, the blue quartered with yellow, the red and white, and many others.

Sometimes one was hoisted alone, sometimes several together, forming innumerable combinations. Then, when this came to an end, the semaphore hoisted a



MISS BETTY RAN TO THE CAPTAIN

white pennant with a red circle, to show that the message was understood and all was well. It was high time, for the steamer, thanks to her speed, was already at a great distance; and the cliffs, following the example of the town, were being gradually swallowed up in the fine May mist which spread over the sea and glanced in the sun like a silken veil. The news of the adventure soon went the round of the ship, and in every corner groups were forming to discuss the young girl's chances of success or failure.

"I say her perseverance will meet with its reward," said one of the daring little American's fellow-passengers.

"And I, that she will have all the trouble and expense for nothing," returned another.

"We cannot tell as yet," added a third vaguely, evidently with no intention of compromising himself.

In fact, Miss Scott's caprice had become the event of the day, and the *dénouement* was impatiently awaited. There were even some among the passengers who, of their own free-will, went to the captain and pointed out that there would be little inconvenience in stopping for a few seconds; that it would not cause them to be more than fifteen or twenty minutes behind time, and that it would be a humane act not to refuse the American lady a boon which she so ardently desired. The captain replied evasively to each of them, careful, while still going his own way, not to offend anybody.

As for Betty, all her efforts could not succeed in hiding her impatience. Her mind rushed towards the unknown, the uncertain, the improbable. A dozen questions at once forced themselves upon her, questions which it was impossible to answer, and which combined to throw her into an intolerable state of nervous excitement. Would her plot succeed? How would the captain behave at the last moment? And, above all, would her telegram arrive at Cherbourg in time?

It was this last subject which caused her the greatest apprehension. Would the Tug Company, at sight of her name and without any guarantee or payment in advance, start off one of their steamers? And if so would this steamer arrive at a favourable moment or the route of the *Bretagne*, or might it not possibly happen that, without perceiving it, she would allow the liner to pass in the distance towards the open sea? And many other questions equally insoluble, equally fenced with difficulties and obstacles, rendered Miss Scott, as we have said, so nervously anxious that it was almost impossible for her to keep still.

Victoria, her preparations completed, made herself as small as possible at her side, not daring to ask anything or to risk the least observation. She was simply resigned—convinced in her heart that this second crossing would be no less eventful than the first, and that some serious step was contemplated, to judge by her mistress's looks and a few scraps of conversation overheard here and there.

(To be continued.)

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

I APPEND a few prices of notable stamps at recent auctions:—

Messrs. Glendining & Co.'s Sale,
June 15th and 16th, 1905.

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| Great Britain, 1881, 1d., lilac, printed on both sides * | £ | s. | d. |
| Ditto, proof of the Mulready wrapper without the word "Postage" at foot | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Switzerland, Zurich, 4 r., with vertical lines | 9 | 2 | 6 |
| British Central Africa, 1896, wmk. CC, £10, black and orange-red, mint | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| British East Africa, July, 1895, 5 a., with double surcharge | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| North Borneo, 1886, 5 c. on 8 c. (Gibbons' 21a), mint | 4 | 12 | 6 |
| St. Helena, 1864-74, 4d., carmine (Gibbons' 15), but perforated 14 × 12½, mint, a rare uncatalogued variety | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Barbados, 1852, vertical half of 1d., used as a ½d., on portion of original | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1878, 1d. on half 5s. | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| Ditto, 1892, 4d., brown, surcharged HALF-PENNY in black and in red (Gibbons' 106) | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| British Honduras, 1866, 6 c. on 10 c., inverted surcharge (Gibbons' 45) | 4 | 15 | 0 |
| Falkland Islands, ½d. on half 1d., double surcharge | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| Mexico, 1861, medio real, brown, with Gothic surcharge, mint | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| Virgin Islands, 1899, 4d., error PENCE, mint | 4 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| New South Wales, 1871-83, 6d., perf. 12 × 10, mint, surcharged O.S. in red, an uncatalogued variety | £ | s. | d. |
| New Zealand, 1862, 2d., slate-blue (Gibbons' 45) | 1 | 11 | |
| Ditto, 1863-6, 1s., deep green, unused and fine | 1 | 1 | |
| Queensland, 1879-81, error "O," 1d., scarlet * | 1 | 2 | |
| Tasmania, 1864-9, 1d., carmine, compound perf. (Gibbons' 71a) * | 4 | 4 | |
| Tonga, 1891, 1d., rose, four Stars (Gibbons' 15b) * | 2 | 4 | |
| Victoria, 1861, 1s., green, mint | 3 | 17 | |
| Ditto, ditto, 1d., green, no wmk., imperf. | 2 | 18 | |
| Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's Sale, June 27th and 28th, 1905. | | | |
| Bulgaria, 1882, 5 stotinki, rose, error, mint | 9 | 0 | |
| Finland, 1866, 10 penni, purple-brown, error | 5 | 5 | |
| France, 1870-3, 20 c., blue, a tête-bêche pair, mint state | 2 | 4 | |
| Great Britain, 1858-79, 1d., red, Plate 225, in mint state * | 1 | 16 | |
| Ditto, 1860, 1½d., lilac-rose on bleu-té, a fine block of four, in mint state * | 4 | 10 | |
| Ditto, 1876, 4d., deep vermilion, Plate 16 | 70 | 0 | |
| Ditto, I.R. Official, 1902, 5s., carmine | 13 | 0 | |
| Ditto, O.W. Official, 1896, ½d., vermilion, an imperf. pair, showing portions of six overprints | 1 | 16 | |
| Ditto, Govt. Parcels, 1883-6, 9d., green, imperf., mint | 1 | 2 | |

* Unused.

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Great Britain, 1891-1901, 1d., lilac, with inverted overprint | £ s. d. | Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper's Sale, June 15th and 16th, 1905. |
| | 4 15 0 | |
| Ditto, ditto, 4½d., red and green, a pair, mint | 1 12 0 | Great Britain, 1881, 1d., purple, variety printed both sides, mint |
| Ditto, R.H. Official, 1902, ½d., green, and 1d., scarlet, ditto | 2 17 6 | Ditto, 1887, colour proof of the 10d., wmk. Crown, mint |
| Servia, 1866, 2 paras, green on rose, error, mint | 7 15 0 | Ditto, Board of Education, Queen's Head, 5d., purple and ultramarine, mint |
| India, 1854, 4 a., red and blue, a very fine strip of four, 6 mm. apart, on entire original | 6 10 0 | Ditto, ditto, 1s., green and scarlet, mint |
| India, Scinde, 1851, ½ a., blue, a pair* | 3 7 6 | Ditto, ditto, King's Head, 2½d., ultramarine, mint |
| Philippine Islands, 1869-74, "Habilitado por la Nacion," 2 reales, blue, a very fine pair | 8 0 0 | Ditto, ditto, 5d., purple and ultramarine, mint |
| Straits Settlements, Johor, 1891, Two Cents on 24 c., green, the error "Censt," very fine | 2 17 6 | Ditto, I.R. Official, 1884-5, 1s., green and scarlet, mint |
| Ditto, Perak, 1883, One Cent on 2 c. rose, the error BREAK, unused in mint state | 1 8 0 | Ditto, ditto, King's Head, 2½d., ultramarine, mint |
| British Central Africa, 1892-3, 3s. on 4s., grey, mint | 1 14 0 | Ditto, ditto, 1s., green and scarlet, mint |
| British East Africa, 1890, 4 a., lilac and blue, a pair | 3 12 6 | Ditto, O.W. Official, 1902, 5d., purple and ultramarine, mint |
| Cape of Good Hope, 1861, woodblocks, 1d., scarlet, a block of three and a single used together on entire original | 29 8 0 | Ditto, ditto, 10d., purple and scarlet, mint |
| Northern Nigeria, 1900, 2s. 6d., green and blue, block of four, with curious error of postmark, the date being "2019" | 4 15 0 | Ditto, ditto, King's Head, 2d., green and scarlet, mint |
| Southern Nigeria, 1903-4, single wmk., £1, violet and green, mint | 3 10 0 | Ditto, ditto, 10d., purple and scarlet, mint |
| Transvaal, 1878-9, Queen's Head, 1 penny, in red, on 6d., black, Type 11, very fine | 1 14 0 | Ditto, Army Telegraphs, £5, lilac and green, mint |
| British Guiana, 1875, perf. 15, 24 c., green, mint | 2 10 0 | Cyprus, first issue, ½d. on 1d., red, Plate 215, error surcharged three times, unused and scarce |
| Tierra del Fuego, 1891, 10 c., red, used on entire envelope, postmarked "Paramo 6th Agt." | 1 4 0 | British Bechuanaland, 1895, on Cape, 2d. brown, twice surcharged |
| New South Wales, 1850-1, 2d., blue, Plate 2, with Victorian "butterfly" postmark | 3 0 0 | Ditto, ditto, 2d., brown, surcharged "Bechuanaland" only, mint |
| Ditto, ditto, 2d., lilac-blue, Plate 2 | 4 12 6 | Ditto, 1888, surcharged "Protectorate" in large type, ½d., vermilion, mint |
| Ditto, 1863-8, 1d., pale red, with error of wmk. 2, mint | 3 10 0 | Ditto, ditto, 1s. green, variety surcharged "Protectorate," used on piece, rare |
| Samoa, 1868-9, 2½d., in red, on 1d., green, with inverted surcharge, very fine | 1 10 0 | Cape of Good Hope, woodblocks, 4d., pale blue, variety, retouched in right corner, very rare |
| Tasmania, 1857-70, imperf., 4d., blue, double printed | 0 18 0 | Orange River, 1896, provisional, ½d. on 3d., ultramarine, the error "Halve Penny" without bar, mint |
| Victoria, 1861, 1d., green, watermarked One Penny, imperf. | 2 16 0 | Ditto, V.R.I., 1d., brown, error, mint |
| Ditto, 1867-82, 4d., rosine, mint | 2 15 0 | Ditto, 6d. bright carmine; a mint horizontal strip of three; the centre stamp has the figure of value omitted |
| | | Ditto, 2½d. on 3d., blue, mint |
| | | Transvaal, Queen's Head provisional, 1d. on 6d., black, error "1 Pennv," |
| | | Newfoundland, 1860, 1s., orange-vermilion, with original gum* |
| | | Trinidad, The Lady McLeod on entire |
| | | Ditto, 1869, 5s., dull lake, imperf., mint |
| | | New Zealand, wmk. Lozenges, 2d., vermilion |

* Unused.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

C. C. M. (Doncaster).—The difference between the British South Africa 1896 series and the same type redrawn of 1897 is most clearly distinguished by the ribbon at the feet of the animals that stand on each side of the central Arms. In the original issue the ribbon crosses the hind legs; in the redrawn type of 1897 the ribbon is doubled up between the legs, and does not cross them. Here are the two types:—



The original was designed, engraved, and printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. It is, as you say, attributed to Waterlow in the Catalogue; but if you will refer to the Addenda at the end, you will find it corrected to Perkins Bacon & Co.

W. E. B. (Montreal).—The best plan for removing the gratis stamp from the cover of *G. S. W.* is to wet a bit of clean blotting-paper the size of the stamp, turn over the cover, with the stamp face downwards, lay the wet blotting-paper on the back, and keep it damped till, in a few minutes, you can peel off the stamp without leaving a mark on either the stamp or the cover. In this way you may easily and safely remove the most delicate stamp. The same plan

should be adopted for removing stamps which have been stuck down in an old album.

J. B. S.—Sorry we cannot recognise the Transvaal from your description.

T. J. D. H.—*Originals and Reprints.*—Can you tell me how to distinguish between an original and a reprint? It is impossible to lay down any general rules, for the differences vary in each case. In some cases the papers vary, in others the shade of ink, in others the perforation. See Stanley Gibbons Handbook, *Reprints of Postal Adhesive Stamps and their Characteristics*, by E. D. Bacon. Cloth, 5/6.

T. D. (London).—Your receipt stamp used postally in 1882 is quite in order, for fiscal stamps were, on June 1st, 1881, authorised for postal use, and a great many were so used. They are catalogued from 1s. upwards, unused, and are worth about double postally used.

T. A. P. (Winchester).—Only the one shade, purple on rose-red, of the Queen's Head Government Parcels is catalogued; we can, therefore, not give you the catalogue value for any other. Cannot say anything about the value of newspaper stamps.

W. F. (London).—Your letter for Cornelius Wrinkle was duly handed over. As he has not referred to it he presumably does not consider it of sufficient importance. If he were to intimate any desire to insert a fraction of the letters he receives we should have to give him his quietus.

F. E. C. (Ilford).—The overprint on your Ceylon is, we believe, only the protecting rubber-stamp defacement of a mercantile firm, put on to prevent the fraudulent use of the firm's stamps by its employees.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 8

Whole No. 33

19 AUGUST, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Alexandria



ALEXANDRIA, the famous seaport of Egypt, was founded by Alexander the Great 332 B.C. Hence its name. It is built on a narrow isthmus between the Mediterranean and Lake Maryut.

According to *The Times Gazetteer*, it

was "under the Ptolemies the capital of Egypt, and the most important commercial city of the world, the chief centre of Greek science and literature, with a population probably exceeding half a million. The famous libraries established

by the Ptolemies in the Museum and Serapeion suffered on several occasions through wars and local uprisings. The latter was the last great stronghold of heathen learning, and after its capture by the Christians, towards the close of the fourth century, became one of the chief seats of Christian theology and learning, till the capture of the city in A.D. 640 or 641, by Amru, General of Khaliff Omer, who is said to have destroyed what was left of the library."

It was entered by the French in 1798, who were defeated by the British under Sir Ralph Abercromby, 21st March, 1801.

During the troubles created by Arabi it was bombarded by a British fleet of eight ironclads, under Admiral Seymour, on the 21st July, 1882, and taken on the following day.

The latest returns give the population as 210,000.

Its Philatelic History

The issue by the French postal authorities of a series of stamps for the use of French residents at a locally established French post office gives Alexandria a place in our stamp albums.

The first stamps issued consisted of fifteen values of the Peace and Commerce series of France overprinted with the word ALEXANDRIE, in 1899. In 1902 the designs of the current French stamps were utilised, the word ALEXANDRIE being added.

1899. The then current stamps of France of the Peace and Commerce type overprinted ALEXANDRIE in carmine, blue, or black. Fifteen values. Perforated.



Overprinted ALEXANDRIE. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., black on blue; carmine sur. | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 2 c., red-brown on buff; blue " | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 3 c., drab " | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 4 c., brown-lilac on grey " | 0 2 | 0 3 |
| 5 c., yellow-green; carmine " | 0 2 | 0 3 |
| 10 c., black on lilac " | 0 4 | 0 5 |

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 15 c., blue; carmine surcharge | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 20 c., red on green; black surcharge | 0 5 | 0 6 |
| 25 c., black on rose; carmine " | 0 5 | 0 2 |
| 30 c., cinnamon; black " | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 40 c., red on yellow; black " | 0 8 | 0 8 |
| 50 c., carmine " | 0 9 | 1 0 |
| 1 fr., olive-green " | — | 1 6 |
| 2 fr., brown on azure " | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 5 fr., deep lilac " | 7 6 | 8 6 |

1902. The current types of France lettered ALEXANDRIE. The original type of the middle values did not come into use, as the issue was made after the type had been redrawn with a shield instead of a square tablet for the figures of value. Fifteen values. The colours corresponded to those of the same values of France.

Current stamps of France inscribed ALEXANDRIE. Perf.



| | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., grey | 0 1 | — |
| 2 c., claret | 0 1 | — |
| 3 c., orange-red | 0 1 | — |
| 4 c., brown | 0 1 | — |
| 5 c., green | 0 1 | 0 1 |



| | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|
| 10 c., carmine | 0 2 | — |
| 15 c., pale red | 0 3 | — |
| 20 c., brown-purple | 0 3 | — |
| 25 c., blue | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 30 c., lilac | 0 5 | — |



| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 40 c., red and pale blue | 0 6 | — |
| 50 c., brown and lavender | 0 7 | 0 7 |
| 1 fr., lake and yellow-green | 1 1 | 1 1 |
| 2 fr., slate and deep buff | 2 2 | 2 2 |
| 5 fr., deep blue and buff | 5 3 | 5 3 |

(To be continued.)

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

*(Continued from page 100.)*Name of the Country *(continued)*

ROMANIA, as the reader will doubtless remember, was formed by the union of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1861. The design of the stamps from 1862 to 1865 was the joint Arms of the two provinces, the bull's head and the eagle. In 1865 the design was changed to that of the head of Prince Cuza. The value, expressed in "parale," appeared at the top of the design. POSTA ROMANA was the inscription along the sides. PAR is short for "Parale." Forty parale was equivalent to $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. English money.



1865.

In 1866 the head of Prince Michael Brankovich III. appeared as the central design of the second issue of Servia. The inscription over the head is the Servian for "Royal Servian Post."

This Prince Michael was assassinated in Belgrade on the 10th June, 1868. His son and nephew, Milan IV., succeeded him. The head of the boy-prince appeared on the 1869 issue. Above the central design appears POCHTA in Slavonic characters, signifying "Post." An illustration of

SERVIA.



1866.



1869-78.

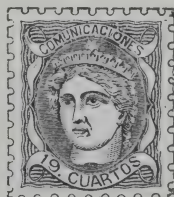
this stamp ought to have appeared under the heading of "Stamps without a Name."

The inscriptions on the remaining Servian issues may easily be deciphered from the foregoing descriptions. We will conclude our Servian paragraph with a short historical note.

Prince Milan came of age, in the princely sense of the term, in 1872. He therefore took up the reins of office. The Russo-Turkish War of 1877-8 gained for Servia her complete independence from the suzerainty of Turkey. Milan was thereupon proclaimed King in 1882. Divorced by his wife, Queen Nathalie, in 1888, he abdicated in 1889 in favour of his son Alexander, whose brutal murder last year brought the Milan dynasty to an end. King Peter, the head of the rival Kara-George faction, now occupies the throne. His bust appears as the central design on this year's issue of Servian stamps.

On Spanish stamps the name of the country appears as ESPAÑA. CORREOS is the Spanish for "Post." In 1870 an issue appeared bearing, as a central design, an allegorical head of Spain. COMUNICACIONES is inscribed above this head. A word of explanation is necessary with regard to this word of many syllables. In 1869 the postal and telegraph services of Spain were united in one service. COMUNICACIONES meant communications either by letter or by telegraph, and the stamps on which this word was inscribed were available for either service.

SPAIN.



1870.

GUINEA ESPANOLA appears as the inscription on the stamps of Spanish Guinea. The central design is the head of King Alfonso XIII.

SPANISH GUINEA.



An issue of no little interest to the collector at the present moment is that of Norway in 1878. The head of King Oscar II. (of Sweden) forms the central design. There are three values: 1 kroner, 1 kroner 50 öre, and 2 kroner. These were withdrawn from circulation on June 30th of this year. Provisionals have been made by surcharging the old 2 skilling stamps of 1867-8.

NORWAY.



1878.

"Sweden" appears as SVERIGE on the postage stamps of that country. The first issue had for central design the Arms of Sweden, three crowns on a shield surmounted by a royal crown. FRIMÄRKE, *i.e.* "Free or franking stamp," appears along the sides.

SWEDEN.



1855.

And here let me indulge in yet another brief historical sketch. The head of King Oscar II. has been a familiar object to stamp collectors during the last twenty-six years. How many have been equally familiar with the romance of his family? Here it is. Jean Baptiste Jules Bernadotte was born at Pau, in Saxony, in the year 1764. He became a general under the French Republic. His talents as a soldier led to his being made a marshal in 1804. Four years later the command in North Germany was allotted to him. The Swedes were charmed by his kindness to their prisoners. An heir to their throne was wanting. Accordingly, in 1810, the Swedes chose Bernadotte as Crown Prince. He became King of Sweden and Norway in 1818, and ruled well. He died in 1844, and was succeeded by his son Oscar I. Charles XV., his son, became King on Oscar's death, in 1859. On the decease of Charles XV. in 1872, his brother, Oscar II., came to the throne.

The differences which have led to the disruption of Norway and Sweden are matter of contemporary history. Whether an independent prince will be chosen to rule Norway, or whether a republic will be proclaimed, is the all-absorbing question in Scandinavian politics. Before these words appear in print, the question may have found a satisfactory solution.

(To be continued.)

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publisher's Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Colombia (continued)

Sucre, Antonio José, was born at Cumana, Venezuela, February 3rd, 1793, and died in the province of Pasto, New Granada, June 4th, 1830. To him belongs the honour of having won the battle of Ayacucho on December 9th, 1824, when he inflicted a crushing defeat on the Spanish forces under General Cauterac, capturing all the principal Spanish civil and military officials and putting an end to Spanish rule in South America. For this great victory he was made Grand Marshal of Ayacucho, and was elected first President of Bolivia in October, 1826. He resigned in 1828 to prevent a war with Peru, the Government of that country having demanded his removal as an adherent of Bolivar. Sucre then went to Colombia, where he was given the command of the army then acting against Peru. He gained the battle of Giron, near Cuenca, February 26th, 1829, and practically ended the war. He was President of the Colombian Congress of 1829, and while returning to his home in Quito was assassinated, at the instigation, it was said, of his political enemies.

Mr. C. E. Akers says of him: "If we turn to San Martin and Sucre we find that they underwent experiences similar to those of Bolivar, for the people they had served so faithfully requited their patriotism with abuse and ingratitude. Like Bolivar, they reached the conclusion that they had laboured in vain for the happiness and welfare of their compatriots and country. The idea of those three great leaders was the establishment of a Confederation of Spanish America, embracing the whole southern continent; they appreciated the vast natural resources of this section of the world, and they saw that with unity of interests amongst the different groups of colonists one great community would combine such elements of strength as to be practically unassail-

able by outside influence. They realised before they died that internal dissensions made the fulfilment of their dream impossible, and they resigned all hope that even at a later period a fusion of interests might be effected. A feeling of despondency in the present gave a gloomy colouring to future prospects, and Bolivar, Sucre, and San Martin all expressed doubts of the outcome of the change they had wrought when they helped to wrest the colonies from Spain."

His portrait appears on the 2 centavos, red on rose, of 1886-9.



Nunez, Rafael.



A Colombian statesman, born in Cartagena, September, 1825, died in September, 1894. He filled the office of Secretary of the Treasury from 1855 to 1857. From 1865 to 1874 he resided in Europe. In 1875 he was defeated as the Liberal candidate for the Presidency, but was elected for the term 1879-82. Under the new constitution of the Republic of Colombia he became President for six years, from December, 1885, and was re-elected in 1891.

Akers says: "The opposition began secretly to arrange plans of action against opportunity, and between 1888 and 1892 the discontented faction fomented a feeling of irritation and dissatisfaction against Nunez, and more than once this took the form of armed resistance; but such local risings were suppressed with small difficulty, and when in 1892 the term of Nunez expired, his hold upon the country was so strong that he was again installed for the ensuing six years. The plea of ill-health was once more put forward as an excuse to avoid residence at Bogotá, and his duties were, as before, delegated to the Vice-President, Señor Miguel Caro. For the next two years no developments of special interest occurred, but the Liberals gained ground in many directions,

and from time to time incidents happened tending to show that a serious movement against the Government would not be long deferred. Nunez died in September, 1894, and his death was the signal for a

renewal of the internal disturbances which his administration had held in check for nine years."

His portrait appears on the 10 centavos, orange, of 1886-9.

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

STAMP PIRATES

By FELIX

FROM Royalty downwards, stamp collecting has become a matter of business, combined with pleasure, to many people.

I remember when, in my schoolboy days, the "Blotting-paper Natal" could be purchased for a trifle, and when other valuable stamps could be purchased for pence which now command pounds.

There are many ways employed for lucrative stamp collecting, but I have observed one method only which can be commended from an honest point of view, namely, that of becoming Secretary to a Stamp Exchanging Society. The Secretary receives all the stamps for sale and exchange, and naturally has first pick. There are many people collecting who really know little about the delicate details of perforations and watermarks. They are members of stamp clubs, and the Secretary, owing to the members' ignorance, invariably enhances the value of his own collection.

There are other ways of collecting stamps which are dishonest. I will describe method Number I.

I have for many years been a traveller on ocean liners, and on one occasion was sitting in the dining-saloon comparing collections with a fellow-traveller. We were discussing the value of various African stamps, and making exchanges on catalogue lines. Whilst so doing, a young man came up to us and, virtually introducing himself as a collector, said, "I have a lot of stamps for exchange purposes if you would like to see them." The gentleman with whom I had been in conversation was reserved, and did not seem to care about the stranger. I, however, saw no harm in accepting the invitation to view his collection.

The stranger was a mail-sorter, and from him I learnt many things of which, I opine, H.M. Post Office is utterly ignorant. On the following day he conducted me to the rooms devoted to the sorting of mails, where he exhibited a fine collection of stamps which was worth hundreds and hundreds of pounds. I believe by the rules of the Post Office, as a matter of fact, I had no right to be there. However, he asked me what African stamps I wanted. I gave him the details by Gibbons, and found that he had plenty of them. The question then arose in my mind, how could this man become possessed of these high-value stamps duly endorsed by the Post Office? I determined to find out. Accordingly, after a little diplomacy, combined with patience and a few brandies and sodas, I eventually fathomed the business.

When the sorting takes place a number of stamps fall off their envelopes, due either to the extreme humidity or intense heat in the atmosphere of the mail-room. The sorters very soon discovered a little gold mine in the fact.

Stamps of no value were pasted in an album in case any complaints were made, and many complaints were made. Rare stamps of high value were divided between the stamp-collecting sorters, and my "friend" informed me on the q.-t. that the best stamps were assisted by artificial means to leave their envelopes, and to find their way to the sorter's album. I saw the so-called "apology book," containing all the rubbish which had really dropped from the envelopes in the mail-bags, and I also saw the sorters' books, wherein the stamps bore a very different value.

I can honestly say that I had nothing

to do in the way of exchange with these stamp pirates of the sea.

And now for another instance of the stamp pirate; this time the land pirate.

In 189— I was in France and had picked up a valuable Canadian stamp in a small shop for a mere song. The stamp was already in my collection. Consequently I only wished to obtain it for exchange or sale. Shortly afterwards I saw an advertisement in a London paper which tempted me to send the stamp for sale. I duly registered the letter and kept a copy of the registration, but neither did I receive a reply nor any offer for the stamp (catalogued at £8). After many letters to which I received no reply, I wrote to Sir E. Bradford, whom I knew, and asked him to help me. Sir E. B. kindly put an Old Jewry detective at my disposal, who ran my man to earth. He was a very plausible creature, and assured the detective that no one grieved more than himself about the loss of the stamp, and that he had not written to me hoping day by day to find it. Anyhow he said, "I intend to compensate the sender in full for the lost or mislaid stamp." I received a letter to the above effect from Detective-Inspector D—— (a celebrated man now) and again waited for the "compensation." Alas, in vain! Eventually my affairs necessitated my return to England, and, armed with Detective D——'s letter, I determined to tackle X—— in my own peculiar way.

From Detective D——'s description, the offices of X—— were over a small cigar shop in the city, and thither I repaired to purchase a cigar, which I smoked as I conversed with the shopkeeper. I asked him many questions about the habits of X——, and he had no hesitation in telling me all he knew. It was as follows:—

"At 10 a.m. a small boy comes to the stamp office overhead and collects all letters, etc. He then goes away. In about thirty minutes X—— arrives and remains about twenty minutes, and goes away, after which we see no more of X—— or boy for the day."

I was then sitting in the shop at 9.20 a.m., and awaited results. I was accompanied by a "Penang lawyer," which I thought to be the most convincing argument I could use. Sure enough at 10 a.m. the boy arrived. Looking hastily around, he entered the room above, and

in a couple of minutes reappeared with a packet of letters and disappeared into the street. I now began to be interested in the business. I purchased another cigar, and waited patiently for X——. At last a wretched-looking creature, with "crime" written all over his face, appeared, and hurried upstairs to the stamp room. I followed him, and as he was closing the door I resisted it, and forced my way in.

X—— turned on me and said, "What do you want in my private office?" I replied, "I will soon let you know, and moreover you will not leave your *private office* until I get what I want." I added, "My name is A——. You have received a valuable stamp from me and promised Detective-Inspector D—— to compensate me for the *loss* of it. You will not leave this room until you fulfil that promise. If there is any fuss I will have you arrested." The man turned all colours of the rainbow, as the saying goes, but I think the "Penang lawyer" and a certain aggressive appearance on my part altered his demeanour in less time than it takes to write it. I made that man sign a cheque for the full catalogue value of the stamp, which was five times as much as I had paid for it, and twice as much as I originally intended to ask for it.

On my return down the Strand I visited many stamp dealers whom I knew, and they told me privately that X—— was a notorious stamp thief, but people would not worry to prosecute him. Within three months, however, I had the satisfaction of seeing that he had been booked for nine months' imprisonment with hard labour for a similar offence.

One "Secretary" I had dealings with levanted to the Continent. I had suspected him; but everybody told me that he was so "straightforward in his dealings." Nevertheless, he too found his way to hard labour, though I am happy to say that I was not a victim.

I can only warn stamp collectors to be careful in exchanging and selling stamps to strangers, as there is no business wherein swindling has so much scope as that of dealing in stamps. A friend of mine sent many hundred pounds' worth of Mauritius stamps to a London dealer. He did not register the letter, and has never heard from the dealer or received his money from that day to this.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Southern Nigerias

A YOUNG friend of mine is very much puzzled over the price a King's Head stamp has fetched, and is disgusted that it should have outstripped the Queen's Heads in price. It is the King's Head, single CA watermark, of Southern Nigeria that has run up to such a high price and been sold at auction for £3 10s. It fetches a much higher price than the Queen's Head 10s. because it had a short life, probably only one printing, before it was superseded by the multiple CA £1 which is now in use.

What makes Rarity?

Then, again, my young friend tells me that he is very much puzzled about the question of what makes a stamp rare in the sense of its being a stamp which always fetches a long price. So are a great many people. But I may perhaps succeed in explaining what constitutes rarity from the collector's point of view.

It is not the age alone of a stamp, nor even the scarcity or rarity alone, that determines its market value, but a combination of scarcity and popularity. A stamp may be very scarce, say only half a dozen known, and yet, unless it belongs to a country popular amongst collectors, it may not fetch so high a price as a similarly scarce stamp of a popular country. In this case popularity means demand, and demand establishes the market value. The half-dozen of the scarce stamp of the unpopular country may not be wanted by half a dozen collectors, but the half-dozen of the scarce stamp of a popular country may, on the other hand, be badly wanted by several thousand collectors. When the only half-dozen known copies of a stamp, or anything else, have to be divided amongst several thousand competing collectors, obviously they must go to the highest bidders. Hence the high prices which the popular rarities fetch.

What makes a country Popular?

Here we have another question frequently asked by young collectors.

And, again, the reply is bound up with the question of demand and supply.

Generally speaking, it may be said that when leading collectors "go in" for certain countries, specialise them, and write them up, they advertise the wares, *i.e.* the stamps of those countries, and so create a following of other collectors, who also take up those countries which, as the saying goes, have been "boomed," and a brisk demand is the result.

But it fortunately needs something more than the lead of the "Eminents" and the "booming" to popularise a country. That something else is represented by the genuine philatelic interest of the stamps themselves.

For instance, the Australian stamps of all our Australian colonies have an absorbing philatelic interest for British collectors, for they represent the up-growth of those colonies, their separate, individual, and crude efforts at stamp production, and the slow colonial development of the arts of design and printing. Other stamps, like those of the Transvaal, bear the impress of historical changes. It is not a difficult matter to popularise such stamps.

But not all the specialists combined could whip up an interest in the rubbish of Nicaragua, North Borneo, Labuan, etc., amongst sane collectors. These countries provide pretty labels for sale to inexperienced and silly young stamp collectors, but their genuine philatelic interest is down to zero.

Why not Pretty Pictures?

THE nosy young stamp collector who likes to assert his independence of choice, and his freedom from the tutelage of the experienced, asks why he should not collect just what he pleases. He wants to know, don't you know, why the Turk the so-called experienced collectors are always down on him for buying picture stamps. Well, the objection is not to picture stamps as picture stamps, but to their non-philatelic character. Stamp collecting properly pursued is a study of postal issues put into circulation to meet genuine postal requirements, not the mere collection of gaudy labels that have at best only a very remote relation to postal requirements.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Australian Commonwealth.—We are indebted to Messrs. J. H. Smyth & Co., Sydney, for the following extract from the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 7th July, 1905: "The Postmaster-General has invited designs for a uniform penny postage stamp. He sees no reason why he should wait for the expiration of the book-keeping period before making this innovation, as the name of the State could be printed on each stamp, if it were considered necessary, for the protection of its postal revenue."

Belgium.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us 10 50 c., 1 fr., and 2 fr. values of the new series; all have the same portrait of King Leopold II. set in varying frames. These we will illustrate in a later number. We understand that these stamps now complete the set.

New Portrait of King Leopold II. Perf.

- 10 c., rose.
- 20 c., olive-green.
- 25 c., blue.
- 35 c., brown-lilac.
- 50 c., slate-grey.
- 1 fr., yellow.
- 2 fr., mauve.

Gambia.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. report the arrival of the 2½d., 3d., and 1s. values on multiple C.A. paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 1d., carmine.
- 2½d., ultramarine.
- 3d., magenta and ultramarine.
- 5d., grey and black.
- 7½d., green and carmine.
- 10d., olive-brown and carmine.
- 1s., violet and green.
- 2s., dark slate and orange.

Malay States.—The 5 c. is reported on multiple paper.



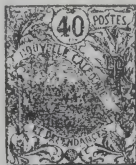
Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 1 c., green, black centre.
- 3 c., brown "
- 4 c., carmine "
- 5 c., red, green centre, yellow paper.
- 10 c., claret, black centre.

New Caledonia.—Our publishers send us a full set of new designs for this French colony. There are three separate designs. The lower values up to the 15 c. have as their central figure a bird with outspread wings, evidently intended to represent the kagu, an almost extinct species described by ornithologists as peculiar to New Caledonia. It is a rather long-legged bird, about as large as an ordinary fowl, with bright red bill and legs, large eyes, a full pendent crest, and is generally of a light slate colour, paler beneath, and obscurely barred on its longer wing coverts and tail with a darker shade. The middle values 20 c. to 75 c. present what looks like an up-river station. The franc values are of double size, oblong in shape, and have a view of a four-masted full-rigged sailing ship under full sail.



- 1 c., black on grey-green paper.
- 2 c., claret.
- 4 c., green on yellow paper.
- 5 c., green.
- 10 c., carmine.
- 15 c., mauve.



- 20 c., brown.
- 25 c., blue on blue paper.
- 30 c., brown on yellow paper.
- 40 c., red on grey-green paper.
- 50 c., red on yellow paper.
- 75 c., olive-green.



- 1 franc, blue on green paper.
- 2 francs, carmine on blue paper.
- 5 " black on yellow paper.

MISCELLANEOUS

Persian Stamps

HAVING been, done, and been done! in this country, the following may be of interest to collectors of Persian stamps, and if I can persuade any collector by the following notes to give up collecting the stamps of this country, I will flatter myself by thinking I have done Philately a good turn and have not lived in vain.

Persia, by her fickle and false use of her postage stamps, has sunk down to the lowest depths of contempt; but, alas! it is only in keeping with her other customs. When her postal services were taken over in 1900 to be run and managed by Belgians, it was hoped that a system in keeping with the postal system of any self-respecting Power would be introduced. It was fully expected that, being in the hands of men from a European country, self-respect would play a leading part; but things have gone from bad to worse as far as the issuing of stamps is concerned. A postal official at Teheran is a collector of stamps, and surcharges stamps, orders new designs, and cancels the franking power of previous issues at his own free will. I have bought stamps in Persia, and a few weeks after have been politely informed that they were "demonetised," and the 1 kran stamp, for which I had paid a kran (I could now get about a dozen for the same sum, other denominations going equally cheap), ceased to have any face value. Therefore these stamps had ceased to become postage stamps; they were nothing more than bits of paper, possessing no franking power, bearing an effigy, and over the effigy an ugly blob of ink called a surcharge.

"Luath," in the *Philatelic Journal of India*.

Universal Penny Post

THE present moment, when international friendships are being ever more firmly cemented, is most opportune for Mr. Henniker Heaton's movement for a universal penny postage.

In a letter on the subject, Mr. Henniker Heaton says:—

"It is intended to form a league for the establishment of universal penny postage, so that any inhabitant of our planet—white, black, or yellow—may be enabled for the sum of one penny to communicate with any other at the lowest possible rate and the highest attainable speed.

"Since 1898, when Imperial penny postage was introduced, our outward mails have nearly doubled. Every Friday some 250,000 British letters pass through France and Italy for India, Hong Kong, and Australasia, 12,000 miles.

"The postage on each of these letters is 1d. By the same boat a few British letters are carried for residents in Calais, twenty-one miles; and on these letters the postage is 2½d. By what perverse ingenuity can such a distinction be justified? or why should a letter to New York cost 2½d., and another in the same bag be carried through that city and 1000 miles into Canada for 1d?"

At the Postal Union Congress at Rome next year

the Postmaster-General of New Zealand is to move a resolution in favour of universal penny postage.

Daily Mail.

Torpedo-boat Post

ELABORATE provision was made to deal with the heavy postal and telegraphic work at Portsmouth during the visit of the French fleet. Three deliveries per day were arranged for the French ships during their stay in British waters, the letters being sent from the head post office to the flag captain's office in the dockyard, and thence distributed by means of torpedo-boats.

A special staff of French-speaking postal officials was attached to the Portsmouth office, and the telegraphic installation was considerably extended to cope with home and foreign Press work.

Postal Rates Compared

THE *Journal des Economistes* published some interesting statistics apropos of the agitation for penny postage now being raised in France. The Danish internal postal charges are the lightest in Europe, being only 7 centimes for a letter weighing 250 grammes; while the Russian are the most extortionate, amounting to 18½ centimes for 13 grammes. Norway and Sweden charge 13½ centimes, France and Spain 15 centimes, and Italy 20 centimes for 15 grammes. Austria makes a minimum charge of 10½ centimes, and Germany one of 12½ centimes for 20 grammes; while in the United Kingdom 133 grammes can be sent for 10½ centimes, and in Switzerland 250 grammes for 10 centimes.

Automatic Sale of Postage Stamps

THE automatic selling of postage stamps has hitherto been beset with special difficulties that have proved too great for the inventors to overcome. Messrs. R. J. Dickie, of the post office staff, and J. H. Brown, photographer, two residents of this city, have perfected a machine which by a new and simple device appears to have overcome difficulties and objections. The man who wants a penny stamp will now see in the vestibule of the General Post Office a pillar-shaped box, and on placing a penny in a slot can get the required stamp without trouble. Hundreds of people have already used the machine, which has been the centre of lively interest. The mechanism is strong and simple, and defies all attempts to "beat the machine." Patent protection has been secured through Messrs. Park and Basley, and a company will probably be formed to secure patent rights throughout the world, and to develop the invention commercially.

New Zealand Times.

Girls by Parcel Post

THE following note was written by a woman and taken by her girl to a postmaster in a well-known busy Lancashire town: "Will you please send me word if I can send two girls to—(a Yorkshire town)—by parcel post, and how much will it cost?"

Glasgow Evening News.

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S PACKET.

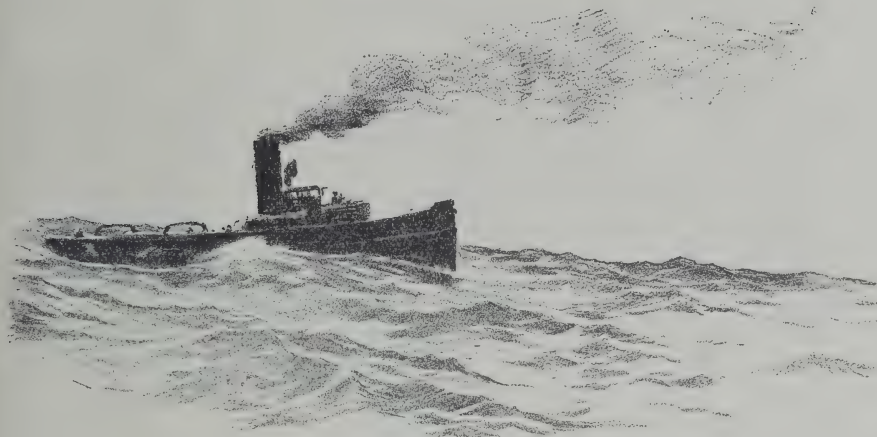
No. 66, 500 varieties, is strongly recommended as the cheapest collection of 500 different Stamps ever offered—the Stamps could not be bought separately for three times the marvellously low price at which it is now offered. The Stamps, etc., are clean, picked specimens fit for any collection. The best 500 varieties in the trade. 4s. 1d., post-free.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THE LITTLE VESSEL WAS ADVANCING

CHAPTER XVII

In which Miss Betty engages in war with man and the elements

BETS were already made involving large sums of money. Some held the opinion that the steamer would not even come to the rendezvous, others that it would be there punctually, while many simply waited for whatever might happen.

For some time now there had been visible in outline on the horizon the coasts of Cotentin, the towers of a Hogue, and the point of Barfleur, from which the liner must set off direct for New York. As they drew rapidly nearer, this point could be more and more clearly seen, with its lighthouse and low cliffs, and at length, when the *Bretagne* was exactly opposite the cape, a turn of the helm caused her to incline slightly to port, and by the curve of the track in her wake it could be clearly seen that the steamer had abandoned her west-north-west course for one bearing west-south-west.

The cape doubled, the land quickly disappeared, enveloped in the light mist, as the vessel steamed towards Cherbourg, while her port side was soon occupied by a long row of passengers armed withlasses and optical instruments of all kinds. The captain, again stationed on the bridge, turned his powerful glass in the direction of Cherbourg, while Miss Betty, becoming more and more nervous, paced the deck without daring to look for fear of being too soon disillusioned.

"There she is!" cried one of the passengers, who was keeping watch through a particularly long telescope. There was no need to be more explicit, for everyone immediately understood that he referred to the steamer so anxiously expected.

"Really!" cried Betty, immediately pushing aside two of the spectators so that she might see for herself.

A small black spot might now be clearly seen in

front of the liner, surmounted by a thin streak of smoke, which spot, growing larger by degrees, took the form of a small steamer rapidly approaching to meet the liner's route. When she was at least two miles off she hoisted signals, which removed all doubt. The colour of her funnel showed, moreover, that she belonged to the Cherbourg Tug Company, and her manoeuvres proved her intention of coming up with the *Bretagne*.

Now she almost disappeared between two waves, then suddenly rose to the very summit of another, for the force of the ocean, no longer restrained by the peninsula of Cotentin, began to be pretty severely felt. When Betty had assured herself that it really was the steamer she had sent for she called to the captain, who was still on the bridge, beseeching him to stop the vessel and allow her to disembark. But the captain leaned over the balustrade and replied politely but firmly—

"Mademoiselle, it grieves me to tell you, once for all, that it is absolutely impossible."

"I appeal to you to grant my request, and I call upon all the passengers to witness your abuse of your powers."

"I can only do my duty," returned the captain, with a roughness he was unable to repress.

The passengers, who had gathered round so as to lose nothing of the discussion, here showed their disapproval of the captain's behaviour, which was undoubtedly in accordance with the rules, but neither conciliating nor kind; murmurs, mingled with protestations and even with menaces, began to be heard. The time occupied in exchanging these few words had permitted the little steamboat to approach, and it was now scarcely a cable's length distant.

"You still refuse?" cried Miss Betty, trembling.

The captain's only answer was to order an increase of pressure, that the boat's speed might be accelerated. Immediately the groaning of the screw was heard as it turned faster and more heavily. The boat creaked

dismally as if overcome by the prodigious effort, and the steam, escaping from every valve, drowned the cries of the indignant passengers.

"You have brought it upon yourself," cried the girl, but her voice was lost in the tumult. And at the words, with the rapidity of lightning, she broke through the circle of passengers, jumped on a chair, climbed over the side of the boat, and threw herself into the sea, while Victoria uttered a cry of hopeless

with great difficulty held back from following her mistress.

At last the streaming head of Miss Betty emerged from a wave close to the tug. The little American, encumbered by her clothes, was only able to swim with difficulty. However, thanks to her energy and her good physical training, she was just able to reach one of the buoys, to which she clung, and was gently drawn by the rope attached to it to the side of the steamer, on to the deck of which the young girl, in a fainting condition, was hoisted, to the great relief of the passengers on board the *Bretagne*.

"Miss Betty! Miss Betty! I must go to Miss Betty!" cried Victoria at the top of her voice and in the wildest excitement. And as she continued to vow that she would drown herself if they tried to keep her on board, and as the course of the steamer was now stopped and the passengers interceded with the captain more earnestly than ever on the maid's behalf, he gave way and signalled to the little steamer to approach.

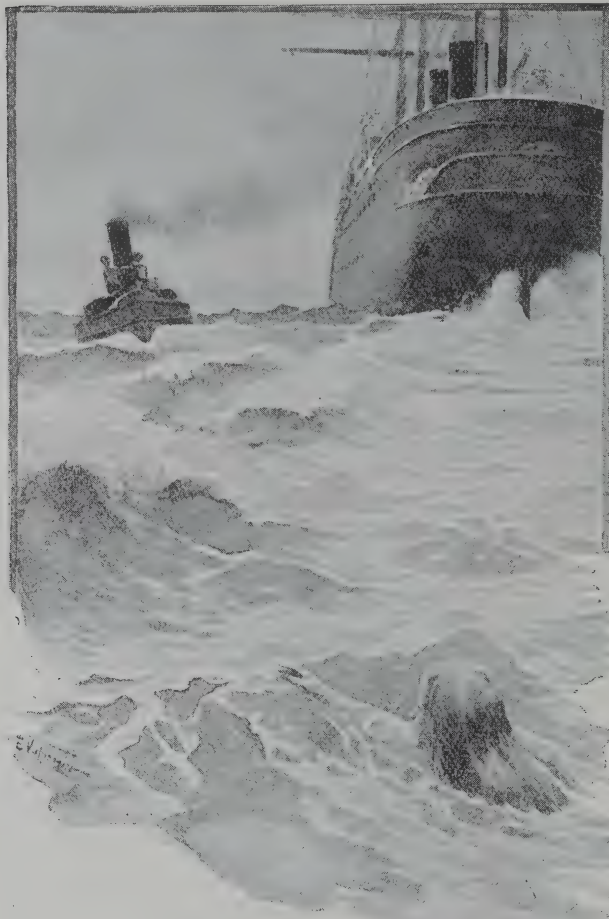
But this she could not do without encountering grave difficulties, the roughness of the sea rendering it almost impossible. And even when the tug got near enough for the luggage of the two women, their portmanteaux and bags, to be lowered into it, there was the still more difficult task of transhipping Victoria. Now the caprice of the waves would cause the little tug to graze the side of the liner, then they would carry her several fathoms away dragging her down, tossing her up again and rolling her in every direction, while the huge and immovable *Bretagne* scarcely trembled in their grasp.

The impatient Victoria was suspended in a kind of improvised swing, one end of the rope being passed round the pulley of one of the ship's cranes and held by four strong men, who only waited a propitious moment to allow their burden to descend on to the moving deck of the little steamer.

This, after the recent tragedy, was comedy irresistible. Balanced like a living pendulum and suspended over the greenish abyss, Victoria seemed little at her ease. Once a wave, higher than the rest, caught her feet, and the sudden cold, mingled a little with fear drew from her a terrified cry. But the scene was so amusing, and there was so little real danger in the poor girl's position, that shouts of laughter were heard on every side, especially when it became evident that her chief concern lay in the proper arrangement of her petticoats.

Suddenly the tug, uplifted by a wave, came nearly to the level of the steamer, seeing which the sailor who held the rope let it slip. But the movement was not carried out with sufficient promptitude, and the little boat, descending at an even quicker rate, sank into the hollow of the next wave, so that the unfortunate Victoria had a fall of several feet, and would have risked at least the breaking of a limb had not the sailors on the tug hastened to catch her in their arms. For a moment the passenger feared there had been an accident, but they were soon reassured by seeing her rise intact and hasten to Miss Betty, who, lying at full length on the deck of the steamer, was just recovering consciousness.

Then, as the *Bretagne* took up her interrupted course, the enthusiasm of all on board at such



THE YOUNG AMERICAN
SWAM WITH DIFFICULTY

despair. One of the witnesses of this mad act was just able to seize the hem of Miss Betty's dress, but the piece of stuff tore off, and the unhappy girl disappeared in the masses of white foam which enveloped the boat.

"Stop!" thundered the captain. "Man overboard!" Immediately, in the midst of the cries of terrified women and of menacing shouts and distracted clamour, the sailors ran to their lifebuoys, while the screw, reversing rapidly to stop the course of the steamer, left foaming eddies upon her track.

The men on the tug, who had also been spectators of the scene, threw all their buoys in the direction in which the girl had fallen. Then followed a moment of deep anxiety. Dead silence reigned, or was only broken by the desperate cries of Victoria, who was

manifestation of will and courage broke forth, and the sound of prolonged applause reached the little steamer as she ploughed her way on the return journey to Cherbourg.

"You here, my dear friend?" said Betty tenderly as she opened her eyes and recognised Victoria kneeling beside her.

"Yes, Miss Betty, and very happy at seeing you out of danger."

"It is all the same to me. I will pay whatever is necessary, but I must be there. It means five hundred francs extra for you."

"Five hundred francs!" It was more than enough to set the engines going. The pilot rushed to his men, and, stimulating their zeal by promising to share with them the offered prize, gave a number of orders, which were executed with startling rapidity, and the tug, bounding from wave to wave, was urged forward



THEY LET DOWN THE IMPATIENT VICTORIA BY A ROPE

"Yes, we have had a lucky escape, and I am surprised to find myself alive after my plunge into the waves. But you—how did you come here? Have they really let you come on board the tug?"

"Yes, indeed, Miss Betty."

"Then all's well that ends well," concluded the courageous girl. But other cares returned, and she called the pilot and said—

"My friend, I wish to catch the six twenty-four train from Cherbourg to Paris."

"Oh, madame," said the good man, who was still a little upset at this strange way of procuring passengers, "it is five o'clock now, and I don't know if—"

at full speed. Betty and Victoria, meanwhile, took refuge in the narrow cabin, and sought in their trunks, almost broken open by their fall, the means of making themselves presentable. Six o'clock struck as the little vessel entered the trading dock at Cherbourg. Betty, more than ever on the alert, jumped on to the quay, paid the considerable sum due for her voyage, fulfilled her promise with regard to the reward, and, followed by Victoria, hastened to the station, where, sinking on to the cushions in the express, she said to her faithful companion—

"And now we have succeeded so admirably, let us sleep till we get to Paris."

(To be continued.)

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Swiss Letter

THE following extract from the columns of the *Centralblatt*, the official organ of the Swiss Mercantile Society, will be read with interest by stamp collectors:—

LUCERNE, *August 1st, 1905.*

The Next Postal Union Congress

"According to the regulations of the Postal Union, a general meeting of all the states belonging to this Postal Union has to take place every five years. Eight years have passed since the last meeting was held at Washington, and nothing definite has been decided up to now about the new Congress. The Italian Government, whose turn it is to convene the delegations this time, is hesitating to do so in view of the present political outlook. Most likely the Congress will take place this autumn at Rome. There will be plenty of work in store for it, especially from the Boards of Trade and Commerce, whose numerous 'wishes' will be submitted to the assembly.

"No doubt it will interest some of our readers to learn something about the facilities and improvements the commercial world is going to propose.

"There is, in the first instance, the increase of weight for letters in the international exchange from fifteen to twenty grammes. This privilege is already in force between Germany and Austria and Switzerland. So there is no reason why it should not be extended to the other countries belonging to the Union.

"Abolition of the *penal* fee on letters, cards, etc., which are insufficiently stamped; only the missing amount ought to be raised.

"Increase of the limit of weight for samples to 500 grammes.

"Introduction of the payment-on-delivery system in all countries. It has proved most hindering to business that the 'collect-on-delivery' system is not more adopted by England, Russia, and other countries.

"Introduction of the money-order service in all states. Indemnity ought to be paid for delayed deliveries. The Post Office which is at fault should be compelled to pay an indemnity for all letters which do not reach their destination in time.

"Reduction of the money-order rates. The limit of weight for parcels ought to be raised to 5 kilos in the international exchange.

Proposed International Stamp

"Uniform regulations of the prescriptions relating to custom-house declarations.

"Besides the above-mentioned demands the Swiss Chambers of Commerce have proposed some other less important ones.

"Some countries have already adopted post cards with reply paid. In order to make it possible to prepay a letter, one speaks of the creating of an international stamp. This is quite an up-to-date proposal. It is not stated whether this paid-reply institution would be the only attempt at an international postal stamp, or if the Bill will be carried through entirely by abolishing the actually existing stamps and replacing them by an international one. Although the introduction of an international stamp would bring us many advantages, we are of opinion that the new-comer would meet with serious technical difficulties, and last but not least, with the disapproval of many a member of the Postal Union itself.

"Bavaria, for instance, distinctly refused to adopt the

German Empire stamp in spite of all wishes from 'above'!

New Parcels Post Wanted

"We feel inclined to add still another wish to the already mentioned ones, which, as far as we know, has not yet been proposed.

"It concerns the introduction of a new category of postal parcels in the international traffic.

"If the desire of extending the limits of weights is justified, the demand to create a new class of small postal parcels is not out of place. The commercial world is forced to avail itself of the sample post for the forwarding of small parcels, which for economical as well as for practical reasons cannot be put under the 5 kilo parcels. This sample post represents a substitute with many very unpleasant qualities. First of all it is decidedly against the postal rules to forward goods which represent a certain value by sample post, and it is but for the obligingness of some post-office clerks that such 'samples' are not constantly refused. It lies in the power of every postmaster to refuse the acceptance of such sample parcels, and this advantage for the commercial world can be withdrawn from one day to the other. For instance, in the traffic with England these regulations have lately been observed more strictly—and this by special order.

"The reason why such frequent use is made of this special category of parcels in spite of the risk involved to it, that the parcel-post category with its comparatively high rates (in comparison to the intrinsic value of the goods) is far too dear. Moreover the sender knows that his 'sample' reaches its destination earlier and without paying duty, thus defrauding the country. It is really astonishing what a small percentage of samples do not reach their destination in our days. Therefore the creation of a new class of postal parcels would be a boon to the public, and the revenues would benefit at the same time. We are of opinion that the proposal treating with the introduction of a new category of small parcels for the traffic between European countries would be worth considering.

"The maximum weight of such small parcels ought to be 1,500 grammes, the postage should not exceed 50 cts., and an indemnity fee of 25 francs ought to be paid by the post in case of total loss. If such a class is once in force, the despatch of goods by sample post could be effectively suppressed. Up to now this category cannot be excluded because another class of parcels of small size is not at hand. At the same time we will not deny that the class in question would perhaps prove to be the most unprofitable of all. On the other hand, the system will surely acknowledge a higher figure of duty perceived. The technical difficulties can easily be overcome if the matter is treated in a practical way, avoiding all useless red tape.

"All we hope is that our proposal will figure amongst the questions discussed at the Universal Postal Congress at Rome.

"LOUIS SCHUMACHER."

Our Brussels Letter

BRUSSELS, *August 1st, 1905.*

The New Belgian Stamps

ON the day fixed, July 21st, the first day of the National Fêtes, the last three stamps of the new issue appeared. As the *Weekly* announced, the colours are the same as those of the old printing, that

grey for the 50 centimes, yellow for the 1 franc, and violet for the 2 francs. Of the three stamps the 1 franc is beyond question the finest, because it is the simplest and most free of ornaments. The 2 francs would gain much if the foliage were removed from around the rectangle which contains the King's portrait. Now that the whole set has appeared one can judge better of its artistic value, and one can see that without attaining to the perfection of the latest stamps issued by the United States, the new Belgian issue is a sign of a marked improvement upon the former issues.

ederation of Belgian Philatelists

The fifteenth annual general meeting of the Federation of Belgian Philatelists was held at Liège on June 15th. The societies forming the Federation were represented by numerous delegates. In the course of the meeting the chief secretary disclosed the reasons which have prevented the Federation from carrying out the project brought forward last year, with regard to

organising an "Exposition du Timbre" on the occasion of the International Exhibition held at Liège.

As is always the case, the project fell through owing to lack of funds and the indifference of collectors. And it will be so always until all collectors form a group in the shape of a powerful federation which would not have to draw back in face of the expenses entailed by an exhibition. For, no matter what one may think of it, an exhibition is one of the means which ought to be used for convincing the public mind that Philately, formerly a simple recreation, has become to-day a real science.

* * * *

Naturally a great deal of attention was paid to the stamps of Belgium at the meeting of the Federation, and there was exhibited there a 10 centimes, green, 1869, on laid paper. This is the first time, we believe, that mention has been made of this stamp, of which the wire-mark is beyond question.

ARGUS.

THE STAMP MARKET

by AN ODD LOT

Next Season's Auctions

READY the leading stamp auctioneers are announcing their next season's sales. Messrs. Glendining & Co. will start at the end of September, Messrs. Ventom, Hill, & Cooper on the 28th September, and Messrs. Puttick & Simpson on the 26th September.

We have not heard as yet of any notable collections coming on the market, but I suspect that it will be a table auction season, because of the great Philatelic Exhibition.

Messrs. Puttick & Simpson's first sale will include a "fine duplicate collection" formed by Mr. Edwin Webster, of Brighton. They state that this duplicate collection is "a very large one in twenty-four volumes, embracing all countries, very strong in fine copies and a series of the medium stamps and mint series of the older colonials."

sale of Collections

THE sale of collections goes on all the year round, for dealers are always open to buy fine collections, lock, stock, and barrel; for fine collections sell themselves. Some great collectors, like the honey bee, change from one flower to another. Sometimes they are selling for one country, sometimes for another, and

being mostly fastidious in the choice of specimens, their gatherings find a ready market in the privacy of the sanctum of some leading dealer. But they do not now announce their sales as they used to do. They do not care to graduate for criticism as quasi-dealers, so it is only a few of us behind the scenes who get to hear that So-and-so has sold his Timbuctoos, and is now going for Wadhwan.

London for Collecting

WHAT an advantage we Londoners have over those who live in the country in the matter of stamp collecting! You stroll down the Strand and drop in here and there with the query, "Anything new?" and if there is anything new you pick it up at current prices; and every now and again you get hold of things that are on sale to-day and gone to-morrow.

I was only a day late when I strolled down the Strand asking for the 9 piastres single CA Cyprus which I had heard was out; but they were all sold, and all I saw of them was blank space after space priced above 1s. 6d. I had only missed, as I thought, a current stamp at the ordinary price of 1s. 6d. which would be plentiful enough later on. It is now catalogued at 20s.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

W. H. W. (Whishaw).—*Cuttings.*—Many thanks for cuttings, some of which you will note we have used.

E. H. (Whiley Bay).—*Exhibition.*—It is early days yet to give any particulars of tickets of admission to the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held in London in May next. Full particulars of the arrangements as to exhibits, tickets, etc., will be duly published in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. The Editor cannot say if he will send in an exhibit.

C. H. G. F. (Dulwich).—"Julen."—A reader kindly informs us that the Danish stamp you inquired about, inscribed "Julen," is a Hospital stamp, with portrait of the late Queen of Denmark.

Mrs. Brodie, Ellesmere, Wyde Green, near Birmingham, will be glad of a copy of *G. S. W.*, Vol I., No. 2, at a reasonable price.

Alt. (Preston).—*Varieties of Perforation.*—There is no reason whatever why you should not collect varie-

ties of perforation if you feel strong enough on your philatelic feet to do so. We rule out varieties of perforation from the pages of *G. S. W.* because we wish to simplify collecting for the beginner. Don't be too anxious to go into varieties of perforation. Even as a general collector you may wisely steer clear of them. Time enough for complexities when you open out into specialism.

Young Collector (Hull).—*Glossary of Philatelic Terms.*—The best glossary of Philatelic Terms that we know of is *Stamps and Stamp Collecting: A Glossary of Philatelic Terms and Guide to the Identification of the Postage Stamps of all Nations*, by Major Evans, published by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., at 2s.

Q. (Brighton).—*Country to Specialise.*—Early Transvaals are very expensive. As a beginner you had better start with a simpler country, say Malta, Gibraltar, Southern Nigeria, Gambia. Don't let your ambition to specialise tempt you into a too difficult country as a start in specialising, or you may get a philatelic cold douche that may damp your ardour.

M. R. T. (Liverpool).—*Stanley Gibbons Handbooks.*—These are too much advanced for you. Better have patience and follow the simplified guide being published in our pages under the heading of "Countries of the World." The *Handbooks* are written by specialists for specialists, not at all for the edification of beginners, or even general collectors.

Tom (Salford).—1. *Condition.*—When we speak of the condition of a stamp we refer to its appearance when compared with a perfect specimen. If a perforation is torn off, or a corner missing, or there is a stain, we say the stamp is not in good condition.

2. *Mint.*—This term is applied only to an unused stamp, faultless in the matter of gum and cleanliness.

3. *Well Centred* means that the perforations do not cut into any part of the design—in fact, that the perforations leave a clear and even margin all round. Such stamps are most sought after by the Great Moguls.

4. *Off Centre*, of course, means the opposite of well centred. It means that the perforations cut into the design and give it a lop-sided appearance.

5. *Unpaid.*—These are stamps affixed to letters by the officials to denote unpaid postage and penalty to be collected from the receiver. In this country the amount to be collected is simply stamped on, "More to pay" and the figure, but other countries affix stamps. If the amount to be collected is 3d., then a 3d. Unpaid stamp is affixed. When it was found that collectors took a fancy to these stamps, some countries went in for Unpaid galore, and made them for sale to silly collectors. We ignore Unpaid in *G. S. W.*

6. *Fiscals* are stamps made for general revenue apart from postal purposes, such, for instance, as stamps for bills and legal documents.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, *i.e.* never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in ar cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

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VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Antioquia



ANTIOQUIA is one of the central Provinces, or Departments, of the Republic of the United States of Colombia. The surface is generally mountainous. The chief industries are mining and the production of stamps for South American specialists. Both industries are important. It is said that there are no less than 3398 mines in the Department which pay taxes, and the export of gold runs

to £40,000 annually. The export of postage stamps is also very considerable, but no reliable returns of the output are available.

The Province has an area of 22,316 square miles and a population of about half a million.

Its Philatelic History

The philatelic history of the Province of Antioquia commences with an issue of four values in 1868. All are of different design, and all are rare stamps, ranging even in the used condition from £4 to £16 each. Unused copies are so scarce that they are very rarely priced. Since 1868 Antioquia has been turning out postage stamps of all shapes and sizes and values. They are crude and rough to a degree, having the appearance of being produced in one of the rough-and-ready mining camps away out of touch with civilization.

There is one sin, however, of which Antioquia has not been guilty, even in its greatest anxiety to get at the ready cash of ready stamp collectors. It has never attempted to destroy the beauty of one of its lovely postal works of art by a single surcharge. It has issued provisionals, and the weirdest crew of portraits ever turned out from a mining camp, but it has never defaced a postage stamp with a surcharge. It may therefore be commended to the Anti-surcharge Society of the United States as its future philatelic heaven.

1868. Four values, each of separate design. The central portion is made up of the Arms of the Province, with the ever-present protecting condor, a ferocious bird peculiar to South America, and now believed to be extinct. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp is peculiar for its method of expressing the fraction with a figure "2," an "i" dotted, and the fraction " $\frac{1}{2}$." The inscriptions are E.S. U.S. DE COLOMBIA, i.e. "United States of Colombia," the term then applied to the federated provinces, and E.S. DE ANTIOQUIA.



Imperf.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------------|---|---------|-------|
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent., blue | . | — | £10 |
| 5 " green | . | — | £10 |
| 10 " lilac | . | — | £16 |
| 1 peso, red | . | £4 | £4 |

1869. Five values. The first four values are of similar design, but the 1 peso is of separate design. The introduction of nine stars into the designs indicates the nine united provinces. The condor and Arms, as before, form the central design. Again the $2\frac{1}{2}$ cent. stamp has its little peculiarity. This time the figure "2" is placed in the left-hand corner and the fraction in the opposite corner.

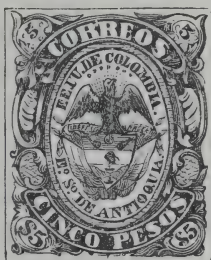


Imperf.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------|---|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., blue | . | 3 | 0 |
| 5 c., green | . | 4 | 0 |
| 10 c., lilac | . | 5 | 0 |
| 20 c., brown | . | 1 | 6 |
| 1 p., carmine | . | 10 | 0 |

1873. Eight values, all of different designs and mostly of the fantastic order. The 5 pesos is of the larger plaster type on coloured paper, so popular for high

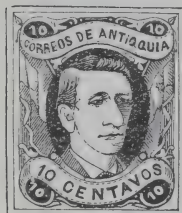
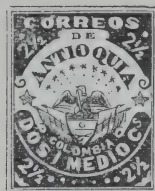
values in South American states. The so-called Cap of Liberty and the condor and Arms may be found hidden away somewhere in most of the designs. The 10 c. is a scarce stamp.



| <i>Imperf.</i> | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1 c., dark green . . . | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 5 c., pale green . . . | 6 0 | 4 0 |
| 10 c., mauve . . . | — | — |
| 20 c., brown . . . | 6 0 | 6 0 |
| 50 c., blue . . . | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 1 peso, red . . . | 2 0 | 2 6 |
| 1 p., black on yellow . . . | 5 0 | 4 0 |
| 5 p., black on rose . . . | 20 0 | 20 0 |

1875-6. Four values. The 1 c. and 2½ c. are of the typical design, but the 5 c. presents the head of Liberty with the inscription LIBERTAD on a ribbon across the head. The "2½ c." in this new design for that value is now ordinarily expressed. The 10 c. has a large portrait of J. Berro, a thoughtful but determined sort of fellow. The many inscriptions of

the early issues have in this stamp been trimmed down to CORREOS DE ANTIOQUIA—10 CENTAVOS.



| <i>Imperf.</i> | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1 c., black . . . | 0 1 | — |
| 2½ c., blue . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 5 c., green . . . | 10 0 | 6 0 |
| 10 c., mauve . . . | 10 0 | 10 0 |

1879-81. Three values, of which the 5 c. and 10 c. are very scarce. The condor figures boldly, and is drawn with more care in the 2½ c., but the Head of Liberty on the 5 c. is a rough-and-ready sort of production. All three are printed on very thin paper.



| <i>Imperf.</i> | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 2½ c., blue . . . | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 5 c., green . . . | — | 30 0 |
| 10 c., violet . . . | — | 160 0 |

1882-3. Four values. The 2½ c. and 5 c. of this series are the designs of the previous issue printed in different colours. The 10 c. and 20 c. are variations of the

large Head of Liberty type, one with profile to left and the other to right. The 5 c., violet and blue, yield some extraordinary variations of colour.



| | <i>Imperf.</i> | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 2½ c., green | . | 0 4 | — |
| 5 c. „ | . | 0 8 | 1 0 |
| 5 c., violet | . | 2 6 | 1 0 |
| 5 c., blue | . | — | 2 0 |
| 10 c., vermillion | . | 2 0 | — |
| 20 c., brown | . | 1 0 | 1 6 |

1883-5. Five values in a variety of colours. This series is made up of the 1 c. of 1875-6, printed in mauve, in black, and in green; the 2½ c. of 1879-81, printed in black on buff; and new designs for the 5 c., 10 c., and 20 c., extraordinary attempts at the Head of Liberty. The 5 c., printed in a sickly yellow, is probably one of the ugliest stamps of South America.



| | <i>Imperf.</i> | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1 c., mauve | . | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 1 c., black on pale green | . | 1 0 | — |
| 1 c., blue-green | . | 0 3 | — |
| 2½ c., black on buff | . | 10 0 | — |
| 5 c., brown | . | 0 6 | — |
| 5 c., yellow | . | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 5 c., green | . | — | — |
| 10 c., blue-green | . | 2 0 | — |
| 10 c., lilac | . | 3 0 | — |
| 10 c., blue on azure | . | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 20 c., blue | . | 1 0 | 1 0 |

1886-7. Eight values. All of the same design, printed on coloured papers.

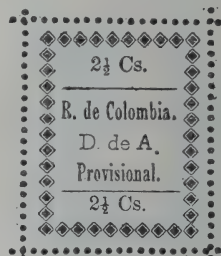


| | <i>Imperf.</i> | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1 c., green on flesh | . | 0 2 | — |
| 2½ c., black on orange | . | 0 2 | — |
| 5 c., blue on buff | . | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 5 c., red on green | . | 3 6 | 1 6 |
| 10 c., rose-carmine on buff | . | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 20 c., purple on buff | . | 0 5 | 0 5 |
| 50 c., ochre on buff | . | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 1 p., yellow on bluish green | . | 1 6 | — |
| 2 p., green on lilac | . | 2 6 | — |

1888. Same design. Four values. Colours changed.

| | <i>Colours changed.</i> | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | <i>Imperf.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 1 c., red on lilac | . | 0 1 | — |
| 2½ c., mauve on flesh | . | 0 2 | — |
| 5 c., lake on buff | . | 0 2 | — |
| 10 c., dark brown on green | . | 0 5 | — |

1890. Provisionals. Four values. Design type-set with varying fancy borders. Printed in black on coloured papers and perforated.



| | <i>Type-set.</i> | <i>Perf.</i> | <i>Unused.</i> | <i>Used.</i> |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 2½ c., in black on buff | . | . | 0 6 | — |
| 5 c. „ „ yellow | . | . | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 10 c. „ „ buff | . | . | 2 0 | — |
| 10 c. „ „ rose | . | . | 2 6 | — |
| 20 c. „ „ yellow | . | . | 3 0 | — |

1889-90. Nine values; various designs. The low values, 1 c. to 5 c. are of type of the 2½ c. illustrated, and the 2 p. and 5 p. are of the same design. Perforated.





| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., black on rose . . . | 0 1 | — | — |
| 2½ c., pale blue . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 | — |
| 5 c., yellow . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 | — |
| 10 c., green . . . | 0 4 | — | — |
| 20 c., blue . . . | 0 9 | 0 9 | — |
| 50 c., brown . . . | 1 0 | — | — |
| 50 c., green . . . | 4 0 | 4 0 | — |
| 1 p., vermillion . . . | 2 6 | 2 6 | — |
| 2 p., black on magenta . . . | — | — | — |
| 5 p., vermillion . . . | 15 0 | 15 0 | — |

1892-3. Three values, two designs. The 1 c., 2½ c., and 5 c. are of the same type and the 10 c. of separate design. Perforated.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., cinnamon on buff . . . | 0 6 | — | — |
| 1 c., blue . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 | — |
| 2½ c., violet on lilac . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 | — |
| 2½ c., green . . . | 0 2 | 0 3 | — |
| 5 c., black . . . | 0 4 | 0 4 | — |
| 5 c., red . . . | 0 3 | 0 2 | — |
| 10 c., grey-brown . . . | 0 3 | 0 3 | — |

1896. Seven values of one uniform design. Perforated.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 c., grey . . . | 0 3 | 0 4 | — |
| 2½ c., Venetian red . . . | 0 3 | 0 4 | — |
| 3 c., red . . . | 0 2 | — | — |
| 5 c., green . . . | 0 1 | 0 2 | — |
| 10 c., violet . . . | 0 6 | — | — |
| 20 c., yellow-brown . . . | 2 0 | 1 6 | — |
| 50 c., sepia . . . | 1 0 | 1 6 | — |

Colours changed.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| 2 c., lilac-rose . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 2½ c., blue . . . | 0 1 | — |
| 3 c., olive-green . . . | 0 1 | — |
| 5 c., dull yellow . . . | 0 2 | 0 3 |
| 10 c., brown-lilac . . . | 0 4 | — |
| 20 c., bright blue . . . | 2 0 | — |
| 50 c., rose . . . | 2 0 | — |

Centres in black.

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1 p., ultramarine . . . | 4 0 | 4 0 |
| 1 p., rose . . . | 5 0 | — |
| 2 p., orange . . . | — | — |
| 2 p., myrtle-green . . . | — | — |
| 5 p., mauve . . . | — | — |
| 5 p., violet . . . | — | — |

1899. Eleven values. Design portrait of General Cordova. Perforated.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½ c., slate-blue . . . | 0 1 | — | — |
| 1 c., " . . . | 0 1 | — | — |
| 2 c., grey-black . . . | 0 2 | — | — |
| 3 c., red . . . | 0 3 | — | — |
| 4 c., sepia . . . | 0 2 | 0 1 | — |
| 5 c., green . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 | — |
| 10 c., red . . . | 0 3 | 0 3 | — |
| 20 c., purple . . . | 0 6 | 0 6 | — |
| 50 c., ochre . . . | 0 9 | — | — |
| 1 p., greenish black . . . | 2 0 | — | — |
| 2 p., slate-green . . . | 4 0 | — | — |

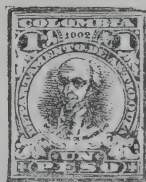
1901-2. Provisionals made up of type borders and curious figures of value and printed on coarse, common paper. Perforated.



Provisionals.

| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., carmine . . . | 0 4 | — | — |
| 1 c., stone . . . | 0 1 | — | — |
| 1 c., red . . . | 0 1 | — | — |
| 1 c., blue . . . | 0 1 | — | — |

1902. Ten values. Four designs. The 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., and 4 c. with large numeral in the central-circle type; the 5 c. separate design; the 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c., and 50 c. portrait of Girasdot; and the peso values portrait of Dr. Felix de Restrepo. Perforated.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., rose | . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 2 c., blue | . . . | 0 1 | — |
| 2 c., mauve | . . . | 0 1 | — |
| 3 c., green | . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 4 c., dull purple | . . . | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 4 c., deep lilac | . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 5 c., rose-red | . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 c., lilac | . . . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 20 c., green | . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 30 c., rose | . . . | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 40 c., blue | . . . | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 50 c., brown on yellow | . . . | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 1 p., violet and black | . . . | 0 6 | — |
| 2 p., rose | . . . | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 5 p., grey-blue | . . . | 2 6 | 2 6 |

1903-4. Twelve values, of various designs, in long narrow rectangular shape stamps. The 1 c. and 5 c. are of similar design, with Arms in the centre; the 10 c., 20 c., 30 c., 40 c., 50 c., have large numerals of value in the central portion of the design; and the peso values are decorated with central portraits. The 1 peso has portrait of Zea; the 2 p., Garcia Rovira; the 3 p., La Pola; the 4 p., J. Manuel Restrepo; the 5 p., Fernandez Madrid; and the 10 p., Juan del Corral.

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

This series was lithographed by J. L. Arango at Medellin, and are very creditably printed.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 4 c., light brown | . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., blue | . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 c., yellow | . . . | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 20 c., violet | . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 30 c., brown | . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 40 c., green | . . . | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 50 c., rose | . . . | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 1 p., sepia | . . . | 0 4 | 0 5 |
| 2 p., violet | . . . | 0 8 | 0 8 |
| 3 p., deep blue | . . . | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 4 p., dull pink | . . . | 1 3 | 1 3 |
| 5 p., brown-lilac | . . . | 1 6 | 1 6 |
| 10 p., carmine | . . . | 3 0 | 3 0 |

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 116.)

1. Name of the Country (continued)

THE name of Switzerland in the days of the Roman Empire was *Helvetia*. This relic of a bygone age has appeared on all the general issues of the Federal Administration of Switzerland since 1862. The designs show a constancy almost unequalled by any other country; for, out of nearly one hundred different stamps issued during the last forty-three years, there have been only three designs used. From 1862 to 1882 the design consisted of an emblematical figure of *Helvetia* seated on a throne with the left arm resting on a shield bearing the Federal Cross. In 1882 two designs appeared. The first showed a Cross with an arched tablet above, on which was inscribed *HELVETIA*; and below, within an ornamental framework, appeared the number denoting the value. The second design was an adaptation of the 1862 design; "*Helvetia*" appeared standing within an oval band on which the name and twenty-two stars appeared to represent the twenty-two cantons.

SWITZERLAND.



1862.



1882.

For thirty-six years, viz. from 1847 to 1883, the United States issued stamps with the name appearing only in the initials of the country, viz. "U.S." Since 1883 the inscription has appeared in full. Illustrations of all these issues with the abbreviated title may be found on pages 491-7 of Stanley Gibbons new Catalogue, Part II.

In 1879 Venezuela issued a series of stamps having, for central design, the head of Simon Bolivar, the rescuer of South America from the hands of the Spaniards. The revolt began in 1810,

and this "Washington of South America," after many vicissitudes, secured the independence of his country in 1821. The inscription *ESCUELAS* appears in the band above the head. The origin of the name "Venezuela" is interesting. It signifies "Little Venice," and was given first to an Indian village built on piles (as still is common) on the shores of Lake Maracaybo.

VENEZUELA.



1879.

We come now to my second heading, viz. :—

2. Indications Denoting the Use of the Stamps.

The subject is a wide one, but the Editor has clipped my wings. His eyes are glued on the beginner. His dictum has gone forth. These are his words: "I am anxious to make Stamp Collecting as plain sailing and as attractive as possible to the Beginner." What would you! I had mapped out a careful survey of "Unpaid, Officials, Special Delivery, etc.," but the fiat has gone forth, and there's naught left but to obey. Perhaps when the beginner has left the chrysalis stage and developed into a full-blown collector I may be tempted to turn over my notes and carry him into "fresh fields and pastures new." Until that happy moment arrives, we must content ourselves with a few references to Newspaper stamps.

The first issue that calls for mention is the 1851-6 issue of Austria. These Newspaper stamps were for the purpose of prepaying postage on newspapers and other periodicals. No value was inscribed on them, and none of the issues were perforated.

The design of this 1851-6 issue showed

the head of Mercury within a square frame. ZEITUNGS, i.e. "Newspaper," appeared at the top.

AUSTRIA.



1851-6.

A second issue appeared in 1858. The central design was the same as that of the new issue of ordinary postage stamps of that year. The inscription is that which helps us at once to differentiate between the two series; for, in the Newspaper issue, STEMPSEL ZEITUNGS appears along

AUSTRIA.

"Ordinary" Issue.



1858-9.

"Newspaper" Issue.



1858-9.



1863.

AUSTRIA.
Newspaper Stamps.



1867.



1900.

(To be continued.)

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1906

THE Prospectus of the Exhibition has now been practically completed, and will probably be issued early in September, 1905, after it has been submitted to and approved by the General Committee, which includes many of the leading collectors, not only in this country, but also on the Continent and in America.

The Exhibition will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with the present Postmaster-General and the three preceding Postmasters-General as Vice-Patrons, while the Chairmanship of the Committee has been accepted by the Right Honourable the Earl of Crawford.

The continuity of the Exhibition with that held in London in 1897 is indicated by the fact that the Duke of Norfolk, who was then the Postmaster-General and a patron of the Exhibition, is now one of the four Vice-Patrons of the 1906 Exhibition.

the sides. For the purpose of comparison we will illustrate the two issues.

Again, in 1863, a change of design in the ordinary issue took place. A corresponding change was made in the "Newspaper" issue. The Arms were substituted for the head of the Emperor. The inscription was the same as that of our last illustration except that STEMPSEL was changed to STAMPEL.

In 1867 the new design reverted to that of the head of Mercury in a circular frame. A further change was made in 1900, when Mercury lost his winged helmet and received, for a head-covering, a sort of deer-stalker's cap minus the ear-flaps. Values were also inscribed on the 1900 issue.

The Committee have done and will do everything in their power to make the Exhibition of 1906 at least as successful as the one in 1897, and if they receive as they anticipate, the co-operation and support of philatelists generally, there can be no doubt about the result.

Information as to the Exhibition can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretaries at 13 Walbrook, London E.C., and remittances by donors or guarantors can be sent direct to the Hon. Treasurer, F. Reichenheim, Esq., 20 Holland Villas Road, Kensington, London, W. The Committee will be glad to receive further promises of financial support.

Donors and guarantors to the Exhibition will be entitled to tickets of admission.

H. R. OLDFIELD, *Hon. Sec.*

L. L. R. HAUSBURG, *Asst. Hon. Sec.*

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The New Chilians

AFTER a lull in the output of New Issues there are signs of considerable activity in many directions. Chili has sent out the first of her long-announced new series, and a handsome series it is. There are three designs, one for the low values, one for the middle values, and one for the peso. I have seen advanced proofs of all, and cannot help thinking they are the prettiest set of stamps issued for many a day.

But the question is, Are they the great set? I think not. It will be remembered that in the early part of last year it was announced that an official notice was published by the Chilean Ministry of the Interior asking for tenders for the manufacture of a new issue of postage stamps, and setting out the requirements as to values, colours and designs, as follows:—

- 1 c., green, head of Diego Portales.
- 2 c., rose, head of Arthur Pratt.
- 3 c., sepia, head of Lord Cochrane.
- 4 c., dark brown, head of Camilo Henriquez.
- 5 c., blue, statue of Bernardo O'Higgins.
- 10 c., pearl-grey, head of Ramon Freire.
- 12 c., pale rose, head of Manuel Blanco Encalada.
- 15 c., scarlet, head of Francisco Antonio Pinto.
- 20 c., purple, head of Joaquin Prieto.
- 25 c., red-brown, head of Manuel Bulnes.
- 30 c., dark green, head of Manuel Montt.
- 50 c., light blue, head of Jose Joaquin Perez.
- 1 p., golden yellow, picture of a condor.
- 2 p., bronze, statue of Jose de San Martin.

This set was to be engraved in the best style, and printed from steel plates. Then, shortly after the announcement of this series, it was reported that there was trouble with the American Bank Note Company, which claimed, under contract, the right to continue the printing of Chilean stamps.

So what has happened, I imagine, is that the Chilean authorities have found that the contract with the American Bank Note Company has yet to be cancelled, and that meanwhile they have had to accept a further supply from that company. And I guess that the American company has been put on its mettle, and has turned out a show series.

I do not anticipate that the Chileans have given up their projected great series, but have just postponed its production till they are clear of the American contract.

Other New Issues on Promise

There are other interesting series of New Issues in prospective. We have the promised completion of the Danish portrait set, and a new set from Italy, and Belgium has just completed her new series. The multiples are slowly approaching completion, and then—What then? Well, we shall see! Then there is the long-promised Australian Commonwealth set, and here we may have a surprise, for according to latest reports there is a disposition to adopt a design common to all the States but overprinted with the name for each State, as a preliminary to the series common to all.

The International Exhibition

At last we have heard from the Exhibition Committee. They have the programme quite ready—up their sleeves; but it must be submitted to the General Committee before it is published, and as most sane people will be away holidaying through August and most of September, that means that we shall see little of the said anxiously awaited programme till the end of September, or even October. Then there will be till the end of April for us to take stock of our collections, and decide on what to show. Then there will be such a scurrying about filling up blanks at the last minute, and the poor dealers will be driven crazy with "want lists" to be filled up right away. Personally, I am quite undecided whether I shall show Wadhwan or Wei-Hei-Wei.

Specialists—Room for the Specialists

Even in the great hall of the Horticultural Society I am wondering if they will find elbow-room for the great specialists. Of late years specialism has opened out in such a style that an average-sized specimen of the species will want the side of a street to himself. The Earl of Crawford's United States only occupies forty-eight large albums, and if such a compact little country as U.S.A. extends over forty-eight volumes, what will become of the Pantehnicon-load of Zanzibars? It will want an annexe all to itself. I guess some of the wings and tail feathers of some of them will have to be clipped pretty closely.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British Guiana.—Mr. Oswald Marsh informs us that he has received the 4 c. on multiple CA paper. This makes the list to date as follows:—



Wmk. multiple CA. Perf.

- 1 c., grey-green.
- 2 c., purple and black on red paper.
- 4 c., " blue.
- 5 c., " " on blue paper.
- 12 c., " violet.
- 24 c., " green.
- 48 c., grey and chocolate.
- 60 c., green and carmine.

Chili.—On page 89 we chronicled and illustrated the 3 c. and 5 c. of the new series, which gives promise of being a very handsome set.

Since then we have received the 20 c. with separate design, and we have also been shown by our publishers "samples" of the 15 c., lilac, 20 c., red-brown, 30 c., myrtle-green, 50 c., blue, all of one design, and the 1 peso, sage-green, of larger size, and separate design. All have a medallion portrait in black.

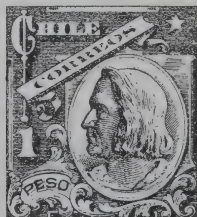
These samples are evidently proofs, for the issued 20 c. is printed in chestnut-brown, whilst the sample is in red-brown, but they may be accepted as settling the assortment of the designs. The 3 c., illustrated on page 89, may be taken to be the type of the low values, the middle values of the second type, and the



Type 1.



Type 2.



Type 3.

1 peso of the third type. A list published by a French journal and quoted in *Ewen's Weekly* is evidently based on "sample" proofs, and is wrong as to colours. Therefore, to be on the safe side, we shall chronicle the colours from the stamps actually issued. We

understand that the values will be issued only as the old stock is exhausted. We give the illustrations of all three types, with a list of the three stamps issued up to date.

Type 1. Perf.
3 centavos, brown.
5 " blue.

Type 2. Perf.
20 centavos, chestnut-brown and black.

Dutch Indies.—The *Philatelic West* says the current 20 c. is obsolete, and is to be changed in colour to prevent its being mistaken for the 10 c., which is of the same design and similar in colour.



Italy.—An Italian subscriber kindly informs us that the projected reform in the Italian postal rates referred to on page 77 has been approved, and will take effect on September 1st, 1905, when the 15 c. stamps will be put into circulation. These will, in the first place, be provided by overprinting the surplus stock of 20 c. stamps with the new value. When these surcharged stamps have been exhausted, a new 15 c. stamp will be issued.

Japan.—Our publishers send us a 3 sen value issued at Tokio on July 1st, 1905, for inland and Korean postage only. It is issued (as per inscription) "in commemoration of the taking over by Japan of the Korean postal service."



Perf.
3 sen, carmine.

Paraguay.—Our publishers have received the 2 c. of the 1904 type.



Perf.
2 c., orange.
5 c., blue.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



HE SAW THAT THE COMMANDER WAS OCCUPIED IN SEARCHING THE PORTMANTEAUS

CHAPTER XVIII

Wherein William congratulates himself on having found a very cheerful travelling companion

WILLIAM, having done all in his power to prevent Miss Betty's departure, returned in a melancholy mood to the station, in order to take the train back to Paris. He was very unhappy at not having succeeded in warning his friend, and a very little more would have been needed to make him dismiss the too officious John Cockburn; but the latter pleaded his cause so well, urging that his only desire had been to render his master assistance, that he felt bound to relent and forgive him.

An hour later the Stamp King and his valet were comfortably settled in their compartment. So many unexpected things had happened since the evening before that neither of them had the least desire to talk. With faces turned to the windows, and a far-off look at the landscape through which they were passing, each fell into a deep reverie; William Keniss especially, who travelled again in thought over this same journey from Havre to Paris, which he had made not many days before with the most charming and delightful companion. How angry he must be with him at that very moment, storming against him, perhaps, for having deceived her in so unworthy, though involuntary, a manner. And would she ever forgive him, when he had explained that the only one to blame in the whole matter was John?

But little by little the young American put these dismal thoughts to flight. He even experienced a certain pleasure in his freedom, and had so far regained his tranquillity by the time he had arrived at the Terminus Hotel that he quickly changed his

clothes in order to dine and go to the Opera afterwards.

"You can do what you like this evening," he said to John before going out. "I shall probably not be back till late, but in any case you need not trouble about me."

"Very good, sir."

"I must tell you definitely, though, that we leave Paris to-morrow."

"And where do we go, sir, if there is no harm in my asking?"

"To Italy."

"Italy!"

"Certainly. Now that, thanks to you, Miss Betty is on her way to America and cannot return in less than a fortnight, even if a fresh voyage has any temptation for her, I need take no further precautions. In any case I shall arrive at Naples before she does."

"Oh, then it is to Naples we are going?"

"Yes, my friend, to Naples. Though I do not know why I tell you that after the proof you have just given me of your discretion."

"But I have no one to make a fool of myself with now, sir."

"No, Victoria is no longer here. Know then, my dear John, that the Brahmapootra stamp is at Naples, in Prince Albrandi's collection."

"Prince Albrandi?"

"A great philatelist."

"As great philatelists, I know you, sir, Miss Scott, Monsieur de Rothschild, who has just bought the Duke of York's collection for 1,500,000 francs, the Emperor of Russia, and Monsieur Ferrari; but Prince Al—, Al—! What do you call him, sir?"

"Albrandi."

"Prince Albrandi I don't know at all."

"Your ignorance is easily explained, as this gentleman has only been collecting a short time."

"Oh, is that it?"

Thereupon William Keniss left the hotel, and as it was about dinner-time, directed his steps to one of the great restaurants on the Boulevards.

He was already longing for the morrow, that he might set off. And yet there was no hurry, as he had now the whole week before him in which to go to Naples, conclude the purchase of the stamp, and return. A week! It was certainly enough. It was even too much! For William Keniss had now but one desire—that the bargain which he hoped to make with Prince Albrandi might be concluded early enough to enable him to catch the next steamer for New York, at Havre, on the following Saturday. In fact, he was in a great hurry to see Miss Betty, to explain all that had passed, and how ashamed he was of the unworthy and revolting conduct of his valet.

But for this purpose it was necessary that the young lady should not start off again for France immediately on landing at New York—of which act she was quite capable.

"I can easily prevent that," thought William. "I have only to send her a cablegram from Naples as soon as I have the stamp."

So William Keniss finished his dinner without his thoughts straying for a moment from his charming rival. Then, not knowing what to do with himself till midnight, he sauntered towards the Opera, where *Faust* was being played that evening.

He had not taken his seat many minutes before the neighbouring one on his right was occupied by a gentleman who looked the acme of elegance. He could not have been more than thirty-five, with a slender figure above the medium height, bristly hair, and heavy moustache curled up at the ends. His dress-coat was irreproachable, and a white camellia of unusual size graced his button-hole. One would say at a glance that he was an aristocrat, a member probably of one of the crack clubs. In passing before William Keniss the unknown bowed gracefully and begged his pardon for disturbing him in a foreign accent, which the Stamp King immediately recognised as Italian.

But the curtain had just risen on the study of Doctor Faustus, who was soon singing his great song, "*A moi les plaisirs*," followed by the frantic applause of the entire house. William's neighbour was especially exuberant, though from his appearance one would not have expected it.

"Bravo! Bravo!" he shouted over and over again, raising his hands above his head to clap, while the unfortunate auditors near him were beginning to cry "Hush!" Upon this the unknown relapsed into silence until the end of the scene; but when the curtain fell his enthusiasm broke out again, and he made more noise than all the others put together.

"Who can this fellow be?" thought William Keniss.

The Stamp King then rose, with the idea of getting a little fresh air outside. But his neighbour politely stopped him.

"Excuse me for the liberty I take, sir," said he, "but are you aware that there is no interval?"

"No, I was not aware of it. Thank you."

"There is no need for thanks. One owes these little services to strangers, for I take it from your accent that you are not French."

"No, I am an American."

"An American? And may I ask to whom I have the honour of speaking?"

"I am William Keniss, of New York."

"William Keniss!" the unknown could not refrain from ejaculating.

"Can it be, then, that you know me?"

"No, indeed," replied the stranger hastily. "But permit me, in return, to introduce myself—Commander Luigi Spartivento."

"Italian, I presume?"

"Yes, sir, Italian."

"Then it is a very lucky accident that has placed me at your side this evening. I am starting for Italy to-morrow, and I trust you will be good enough to give me a little information about the country."

"Not only can I do that, but, up to a certain point, I can pilot you there, for I also go to-morrow evening by the 8.55 express."

"Indeed!"

"But to what part are you going, may I ask?"

"To Naples."

"To Naples!" How fortunate that I should have met you. That is exactly where I am going."

Commander Luigi Spartivento and William Keniss were interrupted at this moment by the bell, announcing that the curtain was about to rise.

"Don't let us talk any more," said the commander.

"This is the Kermesse scene, and it is admirable."

"I see you love music," returned William.

"I do more than love it. I adore it and idolise it."

In fact, several times during the course of the act Commander Spartivento—who, perhaps, affected a little too much the air of being music-mad to be so in reality—manifested his enthusiasm with so much exuberance that the rest of the audience, peaceful citizens though they were, began to show symptoms of annoyance. One of them even made use of the following interval to carry his grievance to a superintendent, who, in the most courteous fashion, begged the noble Italian to put the soft pedal on his too evident admiration of Gounod's immortal work and the excellent artistes who were interpreting it.

"What! What!" cried the commander. "I may not even applaud if it pleases me? Where is the manager? I will take my complaint to him."

"Be calm, I beseech you," said William in annoyance, for a crowd of about fifty persons had already gathered round them in the corridor.

"No, I will not be calm till I have made my complaint. Where is the manager?"

At this moment electric bells rang on all sides to recall the spectators to their seats. William Keniss took advantage of the opportunity to take his new friend by the arm and lead him back, very much against his will, and literally foaming with rage.

"*Diavolo!*" he cried, staring with arrogant insolence at the surrounding spectators. "If I only knew which of these imbeciles it was who complained of me I would cut off his ears!"

"Commander! Commander!" William kept repeating with increasing annoyance. And he tried to draw Luigi Spartivento from thoughts of vengeance to admiration of the Opera House.

"Instead of exciting yourself like this," he said, "just look how splendidly the boxes are decorated."

The Opera House was indeed a magnificent spectacle. For from floor to ceiling all the ladies were in light evening dresses, with bare shoulders and covered with diamonds—a marvellous expanse of varied colours, a fairy flash of scintillating gems.

Spartivento, in his fury, would not look, but continued to crush the orchestra with his wrathful glances. William Keniss could not help comparing him to a great lion in a rage, which brought a discreet smile to the thin lips of the irascible commander.

"Oh, no!" he said. "If they think to keep me from applauding or from hissing they are very much mistaken!"

"What! Are you going to hiss?" cried William, who began to fear that his neighbour would commit some still more trying eccentricities.

"Yes," he said resolutely. "I shall hiss to show the clowns they cannot mock with impunity Commander Luigi Spartivento."

"But they will turn you out."

"It's all the same to me."

"But not to me, my dear Commander, not to me. They have seen us talking together and they will think——"

"Yes, that is true. They might even be capable of turning you out at the same time as your humble servant. So, as I don't wish to cause you annoyance the first time we meet, I will exchange my seat for that one at the end of the row, which, I have noticed, has been empty all the evening."

"As you please," said William, laughing in spite of himself at the anger of his new friend, towards whom he could not feel any ill-will, so eager had he been to offer his services as guide to Italy.

"The curtain is going to rise, so I will leave you.

(To be continued.)

Whether anything happens or not we shall meet at the exit."

"Agreed."

So the commander took the seat he had pointed out to William, and the curtain rose upon Marguerite's garden. The house had become silent as if by enchantment, so that the dropping of a pin might be heard. It seemed as if word had been given to the spectators to hold their breath, lest they should disturb the strain of pure, sweet melody sung by Siebel and Marguerite at the commencement of this act.

POST OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT

THE Fifty-first Annual Report of the Postmaster-General for the year ended 31st March, 1905, has just been published as a Parliamentary Blue Book. We print *in extenso* the portion relating to stamps and postal packets:—

Statistics of Postal Packets

It is estimated that the number of postal packets delivered in the United Kingdom during the year 1904-5 was as follows:—

| — | Number. | Increase per Cent. | Average No. for each Person. |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Letters . . . | 2,624,600,000 | 1'0 | 61'2 |
| Post cards . . . | 734,500,000 | 19'7 | 17'1 |
| Halfpenny packets . . . | 843,700,000 | 2'8 | 19'7 |
| Newspapers . . . | 179,400,000 | 2'6 | 4'2 |
| Parcels . . . | 97,200,000 | 3'0 | 2'3 |
| Total . . . | 4,479,400,000 | 4'2 | 104'4 |

Letters and Post Cards

The increase in the number of the letters, although greater than that of last year (7 per cent.), is still slight compared with that shown in former years; and there is again a decrease (5 per cent.) in the letters delivered in London. This is no doubt to be largely attributed to the still increasing use of pictorial post cards, which has contributed to bring about an increase of 19'7 per cent. in the number of post cards passing through the post. Private post cards are now estimated to number no less than 81 per cent. of the total number posted.

Registered Letters and Parcels

The number of letters registered in the United Kingdom during the year 1904-5 was 18,504,690, a decrease of 2'8 per cent. on the figures for 1903-4; whilst the number of parcels registered was 1,041,521, a decrease of 2 per cent. on the previous year. The decrease is believed to be principally due to the continued depression in the cheap jewellery trade.

Express Delivery Services

The total number of express services was 1,403,053, as compared with 1,290,833 last year. The increase, 8'7 per cent., though considerable, is less than that of previous years.

In London there were 916,740 express services, 446,085 articles being delivered in this manner, including 552,035 letters sent out for delivery in advance of the postman.

Undelivered Postal Packets

The following are the numbers of undelivered packets dealt with during the year:—

| Description. | Number. | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with previous year. | |
|--------------------------|------------|--|-----------|
| | | Number. | Per Cent. |
| Letters . . . | 10,743,447 | -404,834 | -3'63 |
| Post cards . . . | 2,336,124 | +140,797 | +6'27 |
| *Halfpenny packets . . . | 12,559,049 | +131,368 | +1'06 |
| Newspapers . . . | 622,731 | -10,448 | -1'65 |
| Parcels . . . | 257,389 | +3,674 | +1'53 |
| Total . . . | 26,568,740 | -139,243 | —'52 |

* Including also foreign Book Packets, etc., over 2 oz. in weight, prepaid at the halfpenny rate.

Undelivered Letters

The decrease in the number of undelivered letters is believed to be partly due to a diminution in the number of foreign lottery circulars posted in this country, and furnishes therefore double cause for satisfaction.

Registered and Property Letters

The number of registered letters and letters containing property sent through the post with insufficient addresses was 315,965. These letters contained £17,830 in cash and bank notes, and £622,123 in bills, cheques, money orders, postal orders, and stamps. One packet contained jewellery whose value exceeded £2,000. The number of letters containing valuable contents posted with no address at all was 4,507, the contents including £157 in cash and bank notes, and £9,412 in various forms of remittances. It was found possible to restore the greater number of these letters to the senders.

Although the number of insufficiently addressed letters was smaller than in the previous year, the total value of the contents thus jeopardised by the carelessness of the public was greater by more than £4,000.

There was a slight increase in the number of articles found loose in the post during the year. These included £1,171 in cash and £12,058 in cheques and other forms of remittance.

Home Mail Services: Use of Motors

I have been able to make considerable extensions in the use of motor vans for the conveyance of mails; and I am glad also to be able to report a substantial advance in the reliability of the services already

established. On some services the results have been highly satisfactory; but on others the motor vans employed have not yet shown themselves to be so trustworthy as horse vans. It is, of course, most important that vans used for mail services should work punctually and regularly; and it is necessary, therefore, to proceed with caution in extending the use of motor vans, and to exercise care in the selection of the contractors for the services.

Motor services have been established between:—

London and Epping
London and Redhill
London and Brighton
Manchester and Liverpool
Birmingham and Warwick
Birmingham and Worcester
Newcastle and Sunderland
Northampton and Hitchin

and also between some of the London District Offices. The question of the possibility of establishing further services is constantly kept under consideration. The employment of motor vans has in many cases resulted in an acceleration of the service, and, where the loads are heavy and the distances considerable, in a substantial economy.

Arrangements have also been made for the establishment of motor services between London and Hastings, with a branch from Tunbridge Wells to Eastbourne. A considerable financial saving will be effected.

Acceleration of North Mails to West of England

On the 1st July, 1904, the mail train from Bristol to the West of England was accelerated, with the result that correspondence from the North of England now reaches Plymouth nearly one hour earlier than formerly; with a still greater acceleration in the case of letters for Penzance and the greater part of Cornwall. This removes a grievance of long standing which has on many occasions been brought under the notice of successive Postmasters-General.

Cycle Posts

In many rural districts cycle posts have been introduced with advantage in place of foot or mounted posts. A considerable acceleration of the letters has in some cases resulted; and it has, moreover, often been possible to devote the saving effected in the horse-keep allowance to affording additional postal facilities in the district.

When a postman's route is on good high roads and the weight is not too great, trailers have been brought into use with advantage. A bicycle with a trailer is as a general rule found more suitable for rural posts than a tricycle carrier, inasmuch as it is often possible for a postman to leave a trailer behind at some point of the journey (to be picked up on his return), and complete his delivery with the bicycle only.

Cash on Delivery System

Since my last report I have continued to give careful consideration to the question of introducing a "Cash on Delivery" service in this country.

I have received a large number of representations from private persons and traders in favour of the establishment of such a service, giving numerous examples of ways in which the system would be used by the public; but the organised opposition on the part of retail traders continued to be so pronounced that I came to the conclusion that it was inadvisable to override such a body of opinion.

At the same time, to abandon the scheme entirely would have been difficult. Proposals had been made for instituting the system between certain foreign countries and British Possessions. These proposals, if carried into effect, would only intensify the disadvantage already felt by British traders in international business by giving their foreign competitors for British colonial trade the advantage of a cash on

delivery system which the British traders did not possess.

Accordingly, on the 31st October last, I announced to a deputation from the chief trade associations representing small retailers that, whilst for the present I would not establish the system in connection with the inland service, I intended to consider in the interests of British trade whether the system could not be applied to the service between the United Kingdom and its colonies and dependencies and Egypt. The deputation expressed satisfaction with this decision, although it was coupled with a plain statement that in my opinion the system was sure to be introduced sooner or later in the inland and foreign service as well as in the colonial service.

I have since appointed a Departmental Committee to consider the numerous details essential to the establishment of a "Cash on Delivery" system between the United Kingdom and British colonies and dependencies, and—as regards parcels—Egypt; and I hope, at no distant date, to make definite and detailed proposals to the several Post Offices concerned.

Stamps: Colour of Halfpenny Stamps

The colour of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. postage stamp was altered in November last to a lighter shade of green, as there was found to be some difficulty in distinguishing between the dark green $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp and the blue $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp in artificial light.

Use of Cut-out Stamps

The Post Office Act of last session enabled me to withdraw the prohibition of the use of cut-out stamps in payment of postage as from the 31st December; and embossed or impressed postage stamps cut out of envelopes, post cards, letter cards, wrappers, or telegram forms may now be used as adhesive stamps for the purpose of prepaying postage.

Re-purchase of Stamps from the Public

During the year under review the number of purchases of stamps from the public under the regulations introduced on the 1st January, 1904 (to which reference was made in my last Report), was 3,447, representing a total value of £22,827.

The precautions which it is possible to take under these regulations have resulted in the detection of several cases in which attempts were being made to dispose of stolen stamps.

Eastern and Australian Mail Service.

The contracts with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the Orient Steam Navigation Company, which formerly provided for the whole of the Eastern and Australian mail service, terminated on the 31st of January last; but in the case of the first mentioned company a supplemental contract immediately came into force, whereby their service to and from India, China, and Australia is to be carried on, under improved conditions, until the 31st January, 1908, or, at the option of His Majesty's Government, for two or even four years longer. As compared with the former arrangement, this supplemental contract provides for an acceleration by twenty-four hours of the weekly service to and from India and of the fortnightly services to and from China and Australia. Your Lordships are aware that this extension of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's service was made with the view of allowing ample time for the arrangement of fresh services, for which it is proposed at no distant date to invite tenders.

In the case of Australia, I hoped that before the termination of the late contracts the Australian authorities, who found themselves unable to participate any longer in a federal mail service on terms acceptable to the Imperial Government, would be able to arrange for a service under contract with the Commonwealth Government to take the place of the fortnightly service which had been performed by the

rient Company under an Imperial contract. This they were for some time unable to do; and for the purpose of sending mails to Australia in the weeks in which there was no service by the Peninsular and Oriental line, it became necessary on the expiration of the Orient contract to make use of whatever opportunities offered. The irregularity of mail communication under these conditions necessarily occasioned much inconvenience, which was only ended by the assumption in the middle of April of the Orient Company's fortnightly service to and from Naples under arrangement with the Australian Government.

Best Indian Mail Service

In June, 1903, I gave formal notice to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company that their contract for the best Indian mail service would terminate on the 1st June, 1905; and after ascertaining the views of the various colonies as to future arrangements, I invited tenders for a service for a period of five and a half years from the 1st July, 1905. The sole response was from the Royal Mail Company, which submitted three separate tenders. One only of these tenders afforded any prospect of an arrangement; but as its acceptance would have involved an additional payment of £5,500 per annum, which the colonial Governments, whose benefit cold storage of fruit, etc., was to be provided on board the packets, were not prepared to contribute, it seemed questionable whether the existing system should not be altogether abandoned, and arrangements made for the transmission of mails on some other basis. At this juncture the firm of Elder, Dempster, and Company came forward with an offer to perform the required service for such money as was at the disposal of His Majesty's Government. Out of consideration for the long service of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, I determined to invite fresh tenders returnable on the 31st March. In answer to my second invitation four firms tendered. Of the tenders satisfying the conditions laid down, the most advantageous came from Messrs. Elder, Dempster, and Company; but pronounced opposition to its acceptance from two of the most important colonies led me to the conclusion after all to discontinue the contract service.

United States Mails: Sea Sorting

The question of establishing Sea Post Offices on board the British packets conveying mails between the United Kingdom and New York in order that the correspondence might be sorted during the voyage has frequently been discussed between my Department and the United States Post Office; but it is only recently that the difficulties which stood in the way have been overcome. With your Lordships' concurrence Sea Post Offices have now been set up on board the White Star and American lines, and negotiations are in progress for similar arrangements on board the packets of the Cunard Steamship Company.

Letter Postage to Australia

Although not strictly coming within the year under review, it may not be out of place to mention the further step taken towards the completion of the Imperial Penny Postage scheme by the arrangement made with the Australian Government for the reduction of the postage on letters sent from this country to Australia (including British New Guinea, Lord Howe Island, and Norfolk Island) to 1d. per half-ounce as from the 1st April last. The Commonwealth authorities do not at present see their way to apply the same rate to letters sent in the reverse direction, but they have reduced the postage for such letters to their own standard rate of 2d. per half-ounce, and have also decided to reduce the rate for post cards from 1½d. to 1d. each.

Customs Duty on Advertising Circulars for Australia

Considerable inconvenience has been caused in some quarters by the fact that Customs duty is levied in

Australia on advertising circulars, price lists, trade catalogues, and other documents of the same description; and large numbers of such articles have not been delivered because the addressees declined to pay the duty. It is not practicable to arrange for the payment of the duty through the agency of the British Post Office; but the Commonwealth Government has announced that exporters can, if they so desire, remit the amount of the duty (assessed at 3d. per lb.) to the Post Office of the State to which the packets are addressed. Difficulty has arisen in practice in identifying the packets for which payment has been remitted; but I hope the representations which I have made to the Australian authorities may lead them to make some more satisfactory arrangement.

Postal Union Congress

The Postal Union Congress, which was to have been held at Rome this spring, has again been deferred at the wish of the Italian Government, and the date now fixed is the beginning of April, 1906.

The International Jury appointed to consider designs for a monument to commemorate the foundation of the Postal Union has finally selected one prepared by a French sculptor. It is understood that the Swiss Federal Council has already taken steps to give effect to the Jury's recommendations.

Insured Letters

The system of insurance for letters has been extended to Barbados and Bermuda.

The number of insured letters despatched to places abroad during the year was 9,616, against 9,421 during the previous year, an increase of about 2 per cent.; whilst the number received from places abroad was 55,211, against 49,095 during the previous year, an increase of 12 per cent.

Anglo-American Parcel Post

I may mention, although not falling within the year under review, the Agreement which has at length been concluded with the United States Post Office for a direct parcel post to and from this country, commencing on the 1st of April last. The postage is 2s. for each parcel. Parcels sent by this service must not exceed 4 lb. 6 oz. (2 kilogrammes) in weight, the limit fixed for the official service between the United States and other European countries; and they cannot be insured. Customs duty must in every case be paid by the recipients of the parcels, which are, however, subject to no other non-postal charges. Concurrently with this service, the previously existing service for parcels up to 11 lb. in weight, admitting of insurance and the prepayment of Customs duty, continues to be carried on through the agency of the American Express Company.

Parcel Post: Reductions of Postage and Extensions

The rates of postage on parcels sent to Persia by way of India have been reduced, and the limit of weight has been raised to 11 lb. A parcel post with Persia by way of Russia has also been established; and the parcel post has been extended to the Republic of Ecuador. Reductions have been made in the postage payable on parcels for Sweden and Bolivia; and negotiations have taken place which are expected to result in lower rates for parcels addressed to France and Rhodesia.

Additional Facilities

The system under which the sender may undertake the payment of the Customs or other charges ordinarily collected from the recipient has been extended to Jamaica, Queensland (including British New Guinea), South Australia, and Western Australia.

Arrangements are being considered for expediting the exchange of parcels with British East Africa, Zanzibar, and British Central Africa.

Number of Parcels

The number of parcels sent to and received from places abroad during the year was as follows:—

| — | Insured. | Ordinary. | Total. |
|----------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Despatched . . | 158,813 | 2,156,391 | 2,315,204 |
| Received . . | 130,475 | 1,185,313 | 1,315,788 |
| Total . . | 289,288 | 3,341,704 | 3,630,992 |

The total number of parcels outward and home ward shows a net increase as compared with last year of 121,689, or about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The total number of foreign and colonial parcels insured, namely, 289,288 as against 281,818 in the previous year, shows an increase of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Exports and Imports

According to the Board of Trade Returns, the value of the goods exported and imported by Parcel Post during the last three years has been as follows:—

| — | Twelve Months ended 31st March | | | Increase in 1904-5, as compared with 1903-4. | Increase in 1904-5, as compared with 1902-3. |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---|---|
| | 1903. | 1904. | 1905. | | |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Exports . . | 3,373,094 | 3,475,707 | 3,778,558 | 302,851 | 405,464 |
| Imports . . | 1,342,786 | 1,306,251 | 1,377,943 | 71,692 | 35,157 |
| Total . . | 4,715,880 | 4,781,958 | 5,156,501 | 374,543 | 440,621 |

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in ar cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kind co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1,500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1,500 different Stamps form a splendid start for any one. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection but it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 10

Whole No. 35

2 SEPTEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Argentine Republic

THE Argentine Republic comprises fourteen provinces and ten territories. The territories are groupings for electoral and administrative purposes of the sparsely inhabited parts of the country. The Government is a federal republic, with a Senate of thirty members and a House of Representatives of eighty-six members. The President is elected for six years, and is not eligible for re-election. The State religion is Roman Catholic, but all others are tolerated. Education is free, secular, and compulsory between the ages of six and fourteen. The army numbers over 12,000 men, with a National Guard of 500,000.

The republic has a length of 2300 miles and an area of 1,778,195 square miles. Its population in 1902 was estimated at 5,022,249. The capital is Buenos Ayres, with a population of 756,000.

Its northern limits are bounded by the republics of Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia, and its southern boundary reaches Cape Horn. On the west it is divided from Chili by the Andes, and on the east it is washed by the Atlantic. Despite its long coast line, it has few good harbours.



The chief ports, Buenos Ayres and La Plata, are both artificially constructed.

It was first visited by the Spaniards in 1516, and was colonized by them in 1535. At first it was treated as an unimportant part of Peru, but in 1776 Buenos Ayres was made the capital of a new viceroyalty. From 1806 to 1808 British forces endeavoured to gain a footing in the country, but were unsuccessful, and soon after the War of Independence broke out, and was waged with great violence till 1824, when the Spanish power was broken. In 1842 Spain acknowledged the independence of the country.

Of the Argentine people Mr. Akers writes: "Argentine national character bears the impress of Spanish traditions, and the conservative tendency apparent in the Spanish peninsula still militates against the rapid evolution of civilisation in these newer countries. The provincial inhabitants cling to the customs of their forefathers with persistent disregard of the benefits of more advanced ideas. In the Argentine, as in the Spaniard, there is a dislike to close attention to detail in public and private life. Hospitality is a characteristic trait in all classes of Argentine society, alike in city and country, and rich and poor never fail to offer to the chance guest the best that their home contains. In the more isolated districts the people are simple and superstitious to an unusual degree. Quick to resent real or fancied injury, the Argentine is prone to be equally impulsive in forgetting any cause of dispute. No better example of these characteristics could be found than the facts in connection with the many outbreaks of civil war and revolutionary disturbances, and the comparatively small amount of bad blood these conflicts have left behind."

The development of sheep-farming and the opening up of a large cattle trade with Europe have been making great strides of late years; but the immense mineral resources of the country are practically neglected.

Its Philatelic History

The first stamp of the Argentine was issued in 1858, after the various provinces of the Rio de la Plata had been gathered into what was termed the Argentine Confederation. It consisted of three values, with a roughly drawn representa-

tion of the Arms of the Confederation. Then followed, in 1862, the first stamps of the Argentine Republic, with the Arms in reduced size in a laureated central oval.

In 1864 was inaugurated the long series after series of portraits of notable men of the Republic. The first portrait was that of Rivadavia, the Washington of South America. Portraits dominated the designs from 1864 till the Columbian commemorative issue of 1892.

Provisionals were issued in 1877, 1882, and 1884. Apart from these few emergency issues the stamps of the Argentine are fairly straightforward and easy. The first two issues afford happy hunting-grounds for the specialist, but those the general collector may wisely disregard.

1858. Three values of a roughly designed stamp issued by the Argentine Confederation containing the Arms of the Confederation enclosed in a Greek border. The stamps were imperforate and unwatermarked. The stamps are still obtainable for a few pence, thanks to the large remainders which came into the hands of dealers when they were withdrawn from issue.



| | <i>Imperforate.</i> | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 3 centavos, red . . . | . . . | 0 6 | 2 0 |
| 10 " green . . . | . . . | 0 8 | 5 0 |
| 15 " blue . . . | . . . | 1 0 | 5 0 |

1861. Three values, forming the first issue of the Argentine Republic. Design, Arms of the Republic in a laureated oval encircled with the words REPUBLICA ARGENTINA. These stamps were also imperforate and unwatermarked.



| | <i>Imperforate.</i> | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | <i>s. d.</i> | <i>s. d.</i> |
| 5 centavos, rose . . . | . . . | 3 0 | 1 0 |
| 10 " green . . . | . . . | — | 1 6 |
| 15 " blue . . . | . . . | — | 12 0 |

1864. Three values. Design, portrait of Rivadavia, watermarked with the initials RA (Republica Argentina) in script characters. The plates were engraved in England, and were sent out to Buenos Ayres with all the necessary appliances for printing, including a perforating machine and special paper watermarked RA (Republica Argentina) in script capitals. The printing was done at Buenos Ayres. Some of the work must have been very bad, for a French collector writing on these stamps says, "I do not believe there exist any stamps the execution of which is so uneven. I have thirty-seven specimens, all different in shade and impression. In some of them the inscription is not legible; in others the portrait has entirely disappeared, and leaves a white space, and such specimens were used!" Some of the stamps were issued imperforate as well as perforate. It is stated that some of the stamps had to be sent out imperforate owing to the deterioration of the perforating machine and the bad work it turned out. It seems that an incompetent workman, after perforating about a million stamps, damaged the machine to such an extent that it could not be used again. The imperforate stamps are, however, always placed first in the catalogues. Imperforate copies are very scarce, more especially of the 10 c. and 15 c.



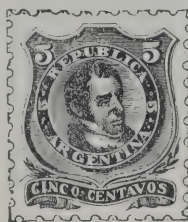
Portrait of Rivadavia. Wmk. RA; imperf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 c., rose-red | 20 0 | 15 0 |
| 10 c., green | — | — |
| 15 c., blue | — | — |

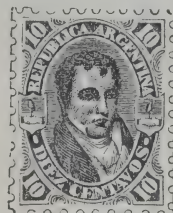
The same. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 c., rose | 3 0 | 1 0 |
| 10 c., green | 6 0 | 4 0 |
| 15 c., blue | 10 0 | 8 0 |

1867. The same three values. On the 5 c., portrait of Rivadavia; on the 10 c., Belgrano; and on the 15 c., San Martin. These are all clearly printed, and are the work of the American Bank Note Co. of New York. They were printed on unwatermarked paper, and were perforated.



Rivadavia.



Belgrano.



San Martin.

| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 c., vermilion | . | . | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 10 c., green | . | . | 1 3 | 0 6 |
| 15 c., blue | . | . | 3 0 | 1 6 |

1873. Five values. Portrait of Balcarce on the 1 c., of Moreno on the 4 c., of Alvear on the 30 c., of Posadas on the 60 c., and of Saavedra on the 90 c. These were engraved and printed in New York by the National Bank Note Co.



Balcarce.



Moreno.



Alvear.



Posadas.



Saavedra.

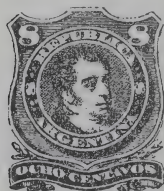
| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 c., mauve | . | . | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 4 c., brown | . | . | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 30 c., orange | . | . | 10 0 | 2 0 |
| 60 c., black | . | . | 3 0 | 0 3 |
| 90 c., blue | . | . | 6 0 | 0 3 |

1877. Provisionals. To provide 1 c., 2 c., and 8 c. stamps printings of the 5 c. of 1867 were surcharged in large bold figures "1" and "2," and printings of the 10 c. of the same issue were surcharged with a large figure "8." All the surcharging was done in black ink and in letterpress.

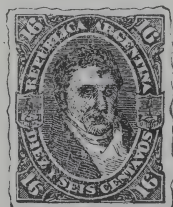
1 2 8

| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| "1" on 5 c., vermilion | . | . | 2 0 | 2 6 |
| "2" on 5 c. | . | . | 15 0 | 12 6 |
| "8" on 10 c., green | . | . | 4 0 | 3 0 |

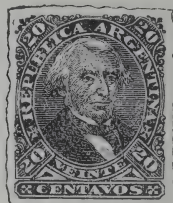
1877-8. Four new values necessitated by an alteration in the postal rates. The 1867 die of 5 c., portrait of Rivadavia, was altered into 8 c.; the 10 c., portrait of Belgrano, of the same issue, was altered to 16 c., and the 15 c., portrait of San Martin, was altered to 24 c. with a slight alteration of the lozenge of the design. A 20 c. of new design, with portrait of Saarsfield, was added to the new values. The dies were altered and the stamps printed by the American Bank Note Co. of New York.



Rivadavia.



Belgrano.



Saarsfield.



San Martin.

| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|------------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 8 c., lake | . | . | 0 8 | 0 4 |
| 10 c., green | . | . | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 20 c., pale blue | . | . | 2 0 | 0 8 |
| 24 c., deep blue | . | . | 1 0 | 0 2 |

1877-87. Two new values, 2 c. with portrait of Lopez and 25 c. with portrait of de Alvear. These stamps were engraved and printed by the National Bank Note Co. of New York on unwatermarked paper.



Lopez.



de Alvear.

| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|------------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 2 c., green | . | . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 25 c., rosy lake | . | . | 2 0 | 2 0 |

1882. Provisional. To provide temporarily a $\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp, the 5 c. of 1867 was surcharged with the fraction " $\frac{1}{2}$ " and underneath (PROVISORIO).



Provisional.

| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| " $\frac{1}{2}$ " on 5 c., vermilion | . | . | 1 0 | 1 0 |

1882. Two new values, $\frac{1}{2}$ c. and 12 c., and 1 c. new design, with tablet of value in centre instead of a portrait. No watermark. Perforated.



| | No wmk | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1/2 c., brown | . | . | 0 2 | 0 4 |
| 1 c., rose-red | . | . | 0 3 | 0 4 |
| 12 c., ultramarine | . | . | 8 0 | 1 6 |

1884. Provisionals. Three curious surcharges to provide a supply of 1/2 c., 1 c., and 4 c. stamps. For the 1/2 c. the 5 c. and the 15 c. of 1867 were surcharged "1884," with the fraction "1/2" underneath. For the 1 c. the 15 c. of 1867 was surcharged with a large numeral and the letter "C," and "1884" under; and for the 4 c. the 5 c. of 1867 was surcharged "Cuarto—Centavos—1884," in three lines.

1884
1/2

1 C
1884

CUATRO
Centavos
1884

Provisionals.

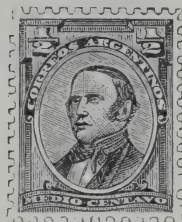
| | No wmk | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1/2 c. on 5 c., vermilion; red sur. | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 |
| 1/2 c. on 15 c., blue | 0 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| 1/2 c. on 15 c., black sur. | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 1 c. on 15 c., red | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 4 c. on 5 c., vermilion; black | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

1884. The design of 1882 newly engraved in slightly modified form. Printed on unwatermarked paper and perforated. Three values in same colours as before.



| | No wmk | Perf. | Unused | Used. |
|--------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1/2 c., brown | . | . | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 1 c., rose-red | . | . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 12 c., ultramarine | . | . | 2 0 | 0 4 |

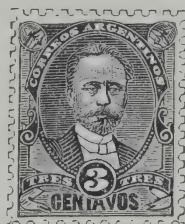
1888-90. A long series of twelve values, each value with a separate portrait and enclosed in a separate design. Printed on unwatermarked paper and perforated.



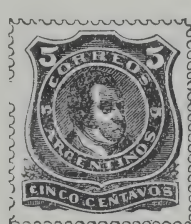
Urquiza.



Lopez.



Celman.



Rivadavia.



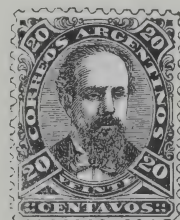
Sarmiento.



Avellaneda.



San Martin.



Roca.



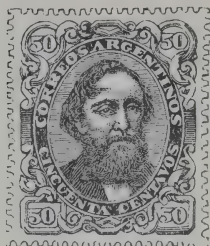
Belgrano.



Dorrego.



Moreno.



Mitre.

| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ c., blue | . | . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., yellow | . | . | 0 9 | 0 6 |
| 3 c., blue-green | . | . | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., rose-red | . | . | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 6 c., dull red | . | . | 1 6 | 2 6 |
| 10 c., brown | . | . | 1 0 | 0 1 |
| 15 c., orange | . | . | 0 9 | 0 2 |
| 20 c., green | . | . | 0 9 | 0 2 |
| 25 c., violet | . | . | 1 6 | 0 6 |
| 30 c., brown | . | . | 1 3 | 0 6 |
| 40 c., slate | . | . | 4 6 | 0 6 |
| 50 c., blue | . | . | 5 0 | 0 6 |

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 136.)

2. Indications Denoting the Use of the Stamps (continued)

IN 1871 there appeared, at the time of the first issue of Hungarian postage stamps, a stamp which was specially issued for newspaper postage. The central design consisted of the crown of St. Stephen and a posthorn within a circular band. No value was inscribed, but the stamp cost one kreuzer. In the following year the design showed the posthorn turned in the opposite direction.

The new design in the ordinary issue in 1874 caused a corresponding new issue of Newspaper stamps. The numeral "1" appeared on the envelope in the centre. The stamp is very similar in design to the 1 kreuzer value of the 1887 general issue. For the purpose of comparison and identification, we illustrate the stamps side by side. In 1900 a fine example of the "Arms" order appeared. This Newspaper stamp had no value inscribed, but it was equivalent to 2 filler.

HUNGARY.
Newspaper.



1871.

"Ordinary" Issue.



1887.

"Newspaper" Issue.



1874.



1900.

In 1861 a Newspaper stamp was issued in Sardinia. The central design consisted of an oval on which was embossed the numeral of value. The inscription at the sides, GIORNALI STAMPE, i.e. "Journal Stamp," denotes the use of the stamp. In the following year the 2 c., black, appeared in yellow for use in the Kingdom of Italy.

ITALY.



1862.

In 1884 four large stamps were issued for the use of the Parcel Post. The profile of King Humbert I. to the right appeared as the central design. The values were 50 c., 75 c., 1 lira 25 c., and 1 lira 75 c. Two new values, the 10 c. and 20 c., were added in 1886.

ITALY.

Parcel Post.



1884.

3. Values expressed in Numbers or in Words

The value of stamps may be expressed either in figures or by the number written in Roman letters. The first case presents no difficulty. It is only when the number which designates the face-value is written in the language of the country in which the stamp was issued that the beginner finds himself in a dilemma. What is the meaning of "Vier Pfennige" on a Prussian stamp? How many centesimi go to make "quindici" or "cinque centesimi"? What is the difference between "Dos Cuartos" and "Doce Cuartos" on the Spanish issue of 1867? The writer has thought that a set of numerals of those European languages, the numbers of which are expressed in Roman letters, might prove useful as a table of reference. For this I have drawn up two groups, each consisting of four languages. It will be readily seen that all of the four languages are related the one to the other. The reason for this is not far to seek. Let us consider the first group, which is known as the Italic or Romanic group. The mother language was Latin. From Latin there have sprung certain Romance dialects, the principal of which are now known as Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

In the following enumeration we have given all the numbers from one to twenty in their natural order.

| | Italian | French | Spanish | Portuguese |
|---------------|-------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ | quarto | quart | cuarto | quarto |
| $\frac{1}{3}$ | terso | tiers | tercero | tercero |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ | mezzo | demi | medio | meio |
| 1 | un | un | uno | um |
| 2 | due | deux | dos | dois |
| 3 | tre | trois | tres | tres |
| 4 | quattro | quatre | cuatro | quatro |
| 5 | cinque | cinq | cinco | cinco |
| 6 | sei | six | seis | seis |
| 7 | sette | sept | siete | sete |
| 8 | otta | huit | ocho | oito |
| 9 | nove | neuf | nueve | nove |
| 10 | dieci | dix | diez | dez |
| 11 | undici | onze | once | onze |
| 12 | dodici | douze | doce | doze |
| 13 | tre dici | treize | trece | treze |
| 14 | quattordici | quatorze | catorce | quatorze |
| 15 | quindici | quinze | quince | quinze |
| 16 | sedici | seize | diez y seis | dezeseis |
| 17 | dieci sette | dix-sept | diez y siete | dezeseite |
| 18 | dieci otto | dix-huit | diez y ocho | dezoito |
| 19 | dieci nove | dix-neuf | diez y nueve | dezanove |
| 20 | venti | vingt | veinte | vinte |

The countries which use the Italian language are the States out of which the Kingdom of Italy has been formed, viz. Sardinia, the two Sicilies, the Papal States, Tuscany, the Duchies of Modena and Parma, Lombardy, and Venetia.

The French numerals are in use in all the numerous French colonies, viz. Annam, Tonquin, Benin, Cochinchina, Dahomey, Diego Suarez, Djibouti, French Congo, French Guiana, French Guinea, French Somali Coast, Guadeloupe, Indo-China, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Nossi-Bé, Obock, Reunion, Ste. Marie de Madagascar, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Senegal, Senegambia, Niger, Tahiti, and Tunis.

The Spanish use is *en règle* in the Philippines (to the year 1898), Cuba, the Spanish Antilles, Porto Rico, and all the former Spanish possessions in America, viz. Mexico, Florida, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Venezuela, New Granada, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chili, the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, and Paraguay.

Portuguese numerals are in use in Brazil and in the colonies of Portugal, viz. Azores, Cape Verd, and Madeira, Angola, and all Portuguese Africa.

(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

"THOUGH LOST TO SIGHT, TO MEMORY DEAR"

By TANCRED

THE European in camp in the jungles, a hundred miles or so from anywhere or any one, considers himself extremely lucky if, in the course of a camping season, he meets with another "white man" once or twice.

A few seasons ago I was out for five months in the Ceded Districts—a tract of country which must have fallen on the earth from somewhere by accident, for there is nothing else like it anywhere. One day, on my return to camp, I found a real live white man, and of course we chummed at once. I gave him a "peg" and my impression of things in general, and the Ceded Districts in particular; and he reciprocated with a cheroot and his condolences.

We arranged to "feed" together that evening. We feed instead of dining when alone, and the difference may best be described by saying, "When you dine you dine, but when you 'feed' you don't."

I told my camp cook to worry round and prepare as decent a dinner as he could manage.

The first course was "hair soap," according to the menu, for my boy always spells hare with an "i" and soup with an "a," but in this particular case, judging from the taste and consistency, the spelling was correct.

The next course was a marvel, and completely beat us.

"What is it?" said I, and "What?" said he; And the boy at once replied:
"Tis a muttoney chop, as all may see,
From the leg of a dog that died!"

It tasted like it, but "De mortuis nisi bonum," even when they are giving you to eat.

We hurried on to the third item, which was very nice and tasty—plenty of sauce in it (that sauce which covereth a multitude of sins, and gives to monkey, goat and bat a flavour which recalls "England home, and beauty"). He asked no questions this time, but after dinner my new friend got a terrible pain inside, and then I felt the same, and between us we sat and wondered why in the scheme of creation we had ever come to this awful country.

When I mentioned the occurrence to my doctor friend afterwards, he said, "Arsenic poisoning." But the difficulty was to account for the arsenic. Then it slowly dawned on me. *My stamp collection*, which could not be found the day after our illness, was the cause.

I have not knowingly eaten curries since Sydney Views and fricasseed Cape wood blocks since, and cannot honestly recommend them to those in search of a new dish.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

A Close Season of Philately

MR. CASTLE, in the *London Philatelist*, favours the putting away of the stamp album during the summer months. He says:—

No pursuit, indoor or outdoor, is capable of being followed year in and year out without palling upon its votaries, and the same trite reflection applies to whatever we eat or drink or do.

It strikes me that that is a rather sweeping sort of trite reflection. But we are only concerned with the stamp part of it. Is it wise to shut up the

stamp album in the summer months and treat it as laid by till the return of winter, I venture to doubt it. It does not follow that because we stick to our hobby year in and year out we are all the time giving ourselves up to it body and soul to such an extent as to produce nausea. There should be reason in all things. If a man cannot collect without indulging in plethora, he had better hand his stamp over to some rational being.

There are many reasons why stamp collecting is developing into an all-round

one-year pursuit. New stamps are issued all the time. Being an international pursuit, when it is summer with us it is winter elsewhere. The trade in stamps is also international, consequently the stamp dealer has to keep open all the year round. He displays the latest new issues and the latest bargains, and we are carried along with the tide which he keeps on the ebb and flow. If we retire from the pursuit in the summer we miss the chances of the passing market, and probably have to pay through the nose later on. The specialist goes strong for shades, and he finds there is nothing like the strong light of the summer for shading up, and also for classifying varieties of a microscopical character.

As a matter of fact, the stamp collector may slacken off in the summer, but he does not shut up his album altogether. When the light is gone, and the gas is out, there is generally still some time before bed, and that time is not unfrequently spent in going through his stamps with some friend who has cycled over to spend the evening with him. We do not forget in regular society meetings, but we do have our individual meets, and chats, and exchanging.

The gay Lothario who can say "good-bye" to his stamps, and tramp the pleasure grounds of Europe during the summer season, may be forgiven for deserting his hobby for a time, but the crowd cannot follow in his track.

The Needs of the Young Collector

Again let me quote Mr. Castle, this time to agree thoroughly with him. Writing of the young collector, he says:—

If the future young collector is to flourish, *the way must be made easy to him*, or his philatelic existence will wither away soon after its birth. What is required is simple catalogues, simple literature, and simple albums, so that he can learn, like the schoolboy, the simple rules of arithmetic before flying into the spheres of higher mathematics. The modern catalogue, though pleasing enough to the specialist, is simply a scarecrow to the young philatelist, and unless he is better catered for in the future, Philately itself runs the risk—let us hope at some distant epoch—of dying out, for the most potent of all reasons on this earth—the inability to perpetuate its species.

Well, those needs are being looked after to-day as they have never been before. A catalogue for beginners has been produced, and a still more simple one on the lines of the limitations fol-

lowed in our pages is being projected by our publishers. In *G.S.W.* the young collector has a journal of his own, from which all perplexities of perforation and all such fripperies as Unpaid, Officials, etc., are rigidly excluded; besides, he has in the "Junior" his own philatelic society, and he has even had his own Great Exhibition.

Mr. Castle will, therefore, be glad to learn, when he revisits this sublunary sphere, that the "young uns" are doing well.

The Young Collector's Wiser Choice

And I am inclined to think that the young collector's programme is the more satisfying. The specialist rarely gets nearer than a disturbed dream of completion. If he ever writes "Finis" on the last page of some favourite country, some restless busybody comes along and discovers some long dormant and utterly unsuspected series of microscopical varieties for him.

But the young collector, who wisely confines himself to normal stamps, completes series after series, with the comforting knowledge that he is building, safely and securely, his little philatelic temple.

In my collection the normal stamps occupy the first page, then on subsequent pages follow such varieties as may have been discovered. The first page is always a settled page; the variety pages are constantly being rearranged to admit some intruder. The first page is the young collector's page; the others are the never completed pages of the specialist.

Society Programmes

Already the programmes of the philatelic societies are coming in for the next season. Liverpool has led the way with a very full and attractive list of events. Amongst other tendencies I note that there are four discussions on the list. I am inclined to believe that a discussion, now and again, on points on which we are not all of one mind, will add much to the usefulness and interest of society meetings. Specialism *v.* General Collecting, Collecting as an Investment, Old Issues *v.* New, are fair samples of suitable subjects.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Belgium.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the 50 c., 1 fr., and 2 fr. to complete the new series.

New Portrait of King Leopold II.

Perf.

- 10 c., rose.
- 20 c., olive-green.
- 25 c., blue.
- 35 c., brown-lilac.
- 50 c., grey.
- 1 fr., yellow.
- 2 fr., mauve.

Great Britain.—*Levant.*—We have received from our publishers the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 1s. values of our current English stamps, overprinted in black with the word LEVANT, in block sans-serif letters.

These stamps come from Constantinople, and are, we understand, to take the place of English stamps hitherto surcharged in Turkish currency.

As to the use of these stamps, it may be well to repeat what our Turkish correspondent wrote in *G. S. W.*, vol. i. :—

"Every collector knows that there are foreign post offices in Turkey, and I think some details, for example, concerning the various British post offices in Turkey will please my readers.

"England has six post offices in Turkey; two are in Constantinople, one of them at Galata, the business centre, and the other at Stamboul on the left bank, one at Smyrna, one at Beyrouth, one at Salonica, and one at Bagdad. All these post offices use at this moment the following stamps surcharged in paras and piastres :—

| | | |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., | surcharged | '40 paras.' |
| 5d. | " | 80 " |
| 10d. | " | '4 piastres.' |
| 6d. | " | 12 " |

"An envelope for a registered letter surcharged '40 paras,' and stamps of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. without surcharge, and cards of 1d. and of 1d. by 1d. without surcharge.

"Anybody can send letters at will by the British post, which, between eight o'clock in the morning and six o'clock in the evening, receives and gives out letters, money orders, parcels, etc. It is the same with the other foreign post offices in Constantinople, and they are four in number—French, German, Austrian, and Russian."

Stamps of King Edward VII overprinted LEVANT.
Wmk. Crown. Perf.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
- 1d., scarlet.
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., green and purple.
- 2d. " scarlet.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine.
- 3d., brown on yellow.
- 4d., green and brown.
- 5d., purple and ultramarine.
- 6d., purple.
- 1s., green and scarlet.

In addition to the foregoing we have received the 5s. King's Head surcharged "24 piastres," probably supplied before the decision to overprint with the word LEVANT.

King Edward VII stamp overprinted in Turkish currency.
Wmk. Crown. Perf.

"24 piastres," in black, on 5s., carmine.

Roumania.—The *Philatelic Record* publishes the following announcement from a Roumanian paper, the *Epocha*: "On the 1/14th August next the colour of the 1 ban stamp will be changed from light brown to black (vignette), the colours of the 1 leu, at present vandyke brown frame and carmine centre, will be changed to special green frame and black centre, and those of the 2 lei from orange-yellow frame and sepia brown centre into vandyke brown frame with black centre. The present stamps of these three denominations will remain in use until the stock is sold out."



The *Record* adds that the new set of stamps announced some months ago are to be issued on the 10/23rd May, 1906, to celebrate the fortieth year of the reign of the present King, Charles I.

Sierra Leone.—Mr. W. T. Taylor, Hull, informs us that he has received the 2d., 3d., 4d., 1s., and 5s. on multiple CA paper. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. have already been announced.



Multiple CA. Perf.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., purple and green.
- 1d. " carmine.
- 2d. " brown-orange.
- 3d. " grey.
- 4d. " carmine.
- 1s., green and black.
- 5s. " carmine.

Venezuela.—We illustrate the wall plasters chronicled and listed by us on page 106.



Perf.

- 5 centimos, red.
- 10 " blue.
- 20 " yellow.

MISCELLANEOUS

Australia: New Watermark

HAVING made inquiries, we have been informed that the Postal Authorities have approved of this watermark (Imperial Crown over the letter "A") for postage stamps generally. Such being the case, we shall soon have something uniform. The new watermark will be adopted in the various States when the existing stocks are exhausted. *Australian Journal of Philately.*

Australian Uniform Penny Stamp

BEFORE retiring from office, Mr. Sid Smith invited designs for a uniform penny postage stamp. In a minute on the matter he said he saw no reason why one should wait for the expiration of the book-keeping period before making the innovation, as the name of the State could be printed on each stamp, if it were considered necessary, for the protection of its postal revenue. It is to be hoped that Mr. Chapman will take the same view. Although not fully in accord with his ideas, it is a step in the way of progress, and there is no reason why one design may not be used for all values, or that out of the designs received sufficient may be adopted to go round.

Australian Journal of Philately.

Secret Marks

WHEN preparing postage stamps, bank-notes, or other monetary documents, designers and engravers are always careful to invent some means by which they may in advance protect their work against imitations by a secret mark and one not easily seen. In most cases they have not been able to find anything better than one or two microscopical dots in the designs, these dots being more or less hidden. This system as the advantage that, even if the dots are noticed by the forger, they may be taken by him as originating from the printing plate not being properly cleaned, their omission would, however, in certain cases lead to the discovery of the forger.

A. Reinheimer in "The Philatelist."

The Postal Service in Morocco

EUROPEAN rivalry in Morocco is particularly shown in the postal service, in which the Government of the Sultan does not participate. Spain, England, France, and Germany have established post offices in various towns, but the French and Germans are the principal rivals. Germany has subsidised lines to Bremen and Hamburg and one to Trieste monthly. France does not subsidise the lines, but has two services to Marseilles monthly.

France has eleven post offices in Morocco. The postal service between the head office at Tangiers and the other offices is kept up by carriers on foot (in Arabic "rekkas"). Each rekkas travels only from one town to another. As there are no roads and no bridges there is only one in the whole of Morocco, the carrier is forced to cross the rivers by fords. In summer this is easy; in winter, however, he has to wait until the waters have gone down, and the carrier, who is very patient, waits sometimes a few days, sometimes a week, and the correspondence waits with him. If all goes well, it takes eight days from Tangiers to Mogador, and seventy-six hours from Tangiers to Fez, a distance of 265 kilometres. In 1903 the receipts were 93,000 francs, the expenditure 67,000 francs, so that a profit of 6,000 francs resulted. Owing to our postal tariff, a letter from Morocco to Algiers or to France costs 25 centimes, whereas the Spanish post office only charges 10 centimes for letters from Morocco to Spain, Gibraltar, and the Canaries. Moreover, the French post offices are of the most rudimentary character. With

the exception of the office at Tangiers, where they are, however, eclipsed by rival institutions, they are of such a mean description as to compare most unfavourably with the luxury and the comfort of the German ones. The French post office is nearly always established in an obscure hovel of the "Mellah" (the Jewish quarter), and the occupier, a Jew or a Moroccan protégé, generally can neither read nor write French. The clients have to decipher the addresses. It is so at "Marrakesch," where the "receiver" is a very honest Jew, who can neither read, nor write, nor speak French. He has the assistance of a few clerks, but his young son, who has been educated and taught French at a school founded by the "Jewish Alliance," mostly does his work. For salary, rent, responsibility, expenses, etc., they receive the magnificent sum of 900 francs per annum.

Let us turn to our rivals, the Germans. In the opinion of all, French as well as Moroccans, their service is the best, and is bound to help in extending their influence. The German post offices are new, and often prettily built, and belong to Germany. The officials are comfortably located in light and well-furnished offices, and besides their rent receive a fixed salary of M. 2500, which would be in our currency here more than 4500 francs. The opinion of the inhabitants of Morocco, who only see foreign nations through their establishments abroad, is that France must be a sorry and mean country, whereas Germany is a sunlit country, and a rich and mighty nation.

It is absolutely impossible not to draw unkind comparisons, when one sees in the German post offices young Germans speaking fluently not only Arabic, but also English, French, and Spanish, whereas the officials in our offices are not Frenchmen, and do not even speak French.

The result of all this is that the German post office for a long time has offered us a very keen competition, which is absolutely out of all proportion to the German commercial trade. At Marrakesch, for example, where the banks have no agencies and cannot issue cheques, the German office turns over 125,000 francs per month in money orders, whereas we have only a turnover of 50,000. Yet the German trade with Morocco amounts to only seven millions, whereas the French trade amounts to forty-two millions. One of these days we shall see another incident like the one the Kaiser has just created by his visit; in the meantime our officials remain in ignorance, they exhaust themselves in empty speeches and vain polemics instead of acting.

"The Philatelic Record," translated from an article by M. Henri Barbe in the "Progrès de la Côte d'Or."

Paddy at the Poste Restante

ASKING for his letters at a foreign post office, a lively Irishman was required to show his passport or card; he had neither, but with ingenious readiness, turned down his coat and exhibited his name in marking ink on his shirt collar. The official smiled and delivered the letters. *The Philatelist, 1875.*

A Live Crab per Sample Post

AN amusing story comes from Berlin. A postman, who was entrusted with the delivery of letters belonging to the sample post, was considerably startled on putting his hand into his post-bag to feel it sharply bitten. Looking through his parcels, he perceived a crab's claw protruding from an envelope, which was posted at Hamburg, and docketed "Sample of no value." It was found on inquiry that the crustacean really had been sent as a sample in the way of business, crab-shells being used in certain manufacturing processes. *The Philatelist, 1873.*

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XVIII (continued)

Wherein William congratulates himself on having found a very cheerful travelling companion

THE commander also was motionless and silent. What was he waiting for, that he did not begin the little manifestation he had promised his friend William Keniss? Simply that there might be a man on the scene, for, not forgetting the respect due to women even when one is in a rage, he would not hiss either Siebel, Marguerite, or Dame Marthe, but Faust or Mephistopheles. For this reason Spartivento waited a few minutes with quiet resignation before showing the people how very little notice he took of the reprimand they had just brought upon him.

At length Faust commenced the beautiful air—

“Salut, demeure chaste et pure!”

and at the same moment the commander put a key to his lips and broke in upon it with a shrill whistle. The singer stopped short, and, one after another, the orchestra followed in confusion. The nearer spectators rose and shook their fists, while those in the boxes and upper galleries leaned over to see as much as they could at the risk of tumbling head-first into the stalls.

“Turn him out!” was the cry. “Turn him out!”

Spartivento, in defiance, thrust his hat on his head and whistled his loudest.

“Turn him out! turn him out!” sounded on all sides.

The situation began to look dangerous for the commander, who sat with smiling serenity in the midst of the storm, when two of the municipal guard appeared at one of the doors, and, in spite of his protestations, marched him out *manu militari*, to the enthusiastic applause of the spectators, who were delighted to get rid of one who had interfered with their enjoyment from the beginning. Now, Spartivento disposed of, the garden scene might go on without interruption. William Keniss, who had not left his seat, was highly amused, and congratulated himself on having made the acquaintance of so lively a person.

“He is so original that he will make a most amusing travelling companion,” thought he.

So the Stamp King took advantage of the interval to go in search of his new friend, whom he found marching tranquilly backwards and forwards at the top of the Opera stairs.

“Well, how did it go off?” he asked.

“Perfectly,” returned the commander. “They contented themselves with escorting me to the door. Will you come and have a cocktail with me?”

“Most willingly.”

So Commander Luigi Spartivento and William Keniss went and settled themselves on the terrace at a café to become better acquainted with each other, and towards one o'clock in the morning, having conversed on a thousand subjects—America, Italy, and what not—they parted with a hearty grasp of the hand like old acquaintances, arranging to meet the next evening at the Gare de Lyon.

William woke in the morning at about ten o'clock. Through the windows of his room, facing the south, entered the rays of the beautiful May sun, which, in the balmy atmosphere of Paris, seems to clothe itself in a soft mist and to lavish its gentle beams more generously than elsewhere. John came and opened

the windows and admitted the delicious morning perfumes. Down below, in the Place du Havre, were a number of conveyances heaped up with flowers spreading all around the reflection of their color and the charm of their scent. Piles of fruit and fresh vegetables—perhaps also the Parisian dames, as they passed with little bunches of flowers in their dress—perfumed the atmosphere, and gave to the air the voluptuous scent which is known nowhere else but between Meudon and Saint-Mandé.

William dressed in a contented frame of mind. Life itself was happiness, as it should be to a man who has slept well after a pleasant evening, possesses a good digestion, sees the sun shine, has a healthy appetite, youth, and money, and is on the point of reaching a desired goal at the end of an enchanting journey.

“I shall not want you to-day,” he said to John when he was ready. “It is such a lovely day that I shall just wander about. I must remind you, though that we start this evening for Naples. Pack up your luggage, forget nothing, pay the account, and be in the waiting-room at the Gare de Lyon at eight o'clock to the minute.” William then went down, had a magnificent carnation arranged in his button-hole from one of the flower girls, and sauntered about for a few minutes.

“Holloa!” said he suddenly. “Eleven o'clock, and our places are not secured for the journey!”

He made inquiries, and returned almost to the point from which he had started on being told he would find the offices of the Lyon Company in the Rue Saint-Lazare; and soon catching sight of the magnificent entrance leading to them he entered the great hall.

“Why, it is Monsieur Keniss!” said a voice.

William turned his head and perceived Luigi Spartivento, who rose from his seat and came forward with outstretched hand.

“Good morning, Commander,” said William, well pleased at the meeting. “To what happy chance—?”

“I have come for the same purpose as yourself, probably, to book my seat for Naples.”

“That is exactly it. Shall we travel together?”

“With pleasure.”

“What shall we take?”

“A coupé seems to me—”

“Oh, no,” interrupted William, with a disdainful gesture. “Besides the fact that three cannot lie down comfortably—”

“A sleeping compartment, then?”

“That's better, but you never feel at home in them and I have a horror of changing trains a dozen times. Would you not prefer a saloon carriage that would take us all the way?”

“You would have to engage one all to yourself, said the commander, by whom the question of economy could not be entirely neglected.

“That is my intention,” laughed William. And after a moment's reflection, he continued with true American frankness, “You need only trouble about your own seat, my dear Captain, for whether I travel alone or no I should none the less take the saloon and the six places.”

This arrangement seemed to please Spartivento, and he agreed at once. But he evidently wished his new

nd to make as cheap a bargain as possible, as he i—

'In any case, as the carriages are arranged in two distinct compartments, each containing three beds i every convenience, and capable of being united separated at will by a door which can be locked, nyone wants to take the one compartment it would quite useless to reserve it at your own expense.'

'I quite agree with you there,' returned William. 'o long as I can go to bed, dress, and not change riages before arriving at Naples, I ask no more.'

With these words they repaired to the booking-ce of the Rue Saint-Lazare, and William stated at they wanted.

'A small saloon carriage to go as far as Naples, ich I will take entirely at my own expense, unless I have someone willing to take the second com-entment.'

'Very good, sir,' said the clerk, plunging into the dy-reckoner to calculate the price of such accom-dation.

While this was going on, Spartivento, overcome by sudden scruple, said in a low voice to his extrava-nt companion—

'This is really unconscionable on my part—I am 'ong in accepting your kind offer.'

'What in the world do you see unconscionable in at, my dear Commander? It happens that I engage a saloon for my own special use, and I ask you to take lace in it, which place you pay for. So you don't owe me any thanks.'

The commander appeared to yield against his will, d William's conscience congratulated him on the le service he was able to render to a man of exten-e acquaintance in high Neapolitan circles, as he lieved, and consequently one who would be able to lp him most efficaciously.

'It will be six hundred and nineteen francs ninety d Modena,' said the clerk, looking up. 'For the alian part of the journey you must pay the difference the frontier. There is a deposit of fifty francs to y now.'

William drew out a pink and blue note and gave it exchange for a receipt, on producing which and ying the remainder of the sum he would be put in ossession of his saloon that evening. This accom-ished, he went out again with Luigi Spartivento to the Rue Saint-Lazare

'What are you going to do this morning?' asked e commander in a friendly tone.

'I'm quite free, and have nothing to do but walk out till it is time to start.'

'In that case will you do me the favour of taking ncheon with me?'

William, who was glad to begin at once the enjoy-ent of such agreeable company, accepted with easure. So Spartivento called a fiacre and they arted off to lunch in the Bois de Boulogne.

The commander was an astounding talker, well-ormed on all points—on deep questions of science : politics as well as Parisian gossip, having seen uch, learned much, and retained much. With that uthern loquacity so alluring in some people, he lked and talked and gesticulated, interspersing iticisms and amusing sayings with the most inter-ig conversation. He related his travels, detailed his adventures, and told of the illustrious friendships that is birth and culture had procured him in the four rners of Europe. William, completely fascinated, ad no wish to interrupt, being ready to profit by ch marvellous tact and the kindness which offered with so much good-will.

Luncheon with such a congenial spirit, under the ool vault of the trees, with a view of carriages pass-ig without intermission, and the joyous warbling of irds in the branches, was, as might have been ex-ected, a gay meal. When they rose from the table, aving become intimate, thanks to their long chat

and still more to the champagne, they returned to Paris and called at several shops, mutually counselling each other concerning their little purchases, and finally sat down to dine together in the neighbour-hood of the Opera House. Friendship was finally cemented by a bottle of old Mesigny, which William, being host this time, had up from the restaurant vaults.

But time fled; the pneumatic clocks showed that it was already past seven, and time to think of going to the station.

'Have you any luggage to take?' asked William.

'No, my dear fellow. The omnibus of the Hotel Continental, where I have been staying, will convey it all to the station.'

'All right then.'

As eight o'clock struck they entered, inseparable from henceforth, the waiting-room of the Gare de Lyon, where John, faithful guardian of portmanteaus and rugs, had already arrived. William immediately went to pay the balance of the hire of his saloon, and was somewhat surprised when the clerk said—

'It will only be half, sir; that is, three hundred and ten francs. Two other travellers have turned up and taken the second compartment.'

'And they go all the way to Naples?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Very good.' And returning to Spartivento he said, 'Do you know we are going to have some com-panions after all?'

'So much the better. It will cost you the less.'

They made their way to the train, and were very much astonished to find that the travellers who had taken half their saloon were already settled there, with the door shut, the blinds drawn down, and the lights extinguished.

'Well, these people must be fond of mystery,' said the commander.

Without troubling any more about them they settled themselves down, arranged their beds, and slept, while the train steamed off at full speed towards Modena and Italy.



(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our New Zealand Letter

WELLINGTON, N.Z., 12th July, 1905.

Introductory

IN writing to you from this remote corner of the antipodes, I must first of all wish your sturdy philatelic fledgeling a long and prosperous career. Its lusty crow is already heard far beyond the confines of its native farmyard, and it gives every promise that—fed on philatelic grains from many lands—it will continue to grow in strength and usefulness, and will prove a real boon to the “young collector” of all ages and all the world over, whose wants have not hitherto been over well attended to.

Mr. Hausburg's Visit

Our little coterie of stamp enthusiasts here has had a rare treat recently, in the visit of one of your most distinguished masters of the cult, Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, and our admiration has been divided about equally between his profound and yet minute philatelic knowledge and his unusual modesty with regard to it. Some of us have been considerably enlightened by his visit on matters with regard to which we imagined ourselves specialists and experts. We hope he will have a very pleasant time during the remainder of his trip round the world.

Catalogue Prices of New Zealand

The British Empire portion of the 1905 Catalogue arrived here some little time ago, and the change in its get-up is the occasion of favourable comment.

The prices of some of the New Zealand stamps continue to puzzle collectors here very much. For instance, the 2s. and 5s. of the 1878 issue (each priced



at 10s. used), are both rare enough out here to justify much higher prices being asked. They are decidedly scarcer here than some of the highly priced 2d. values, such as the no wmk., perf. 13, of 1863, and the 10 x 12½ of 1874, each priced at 50s. used. Possibly the explanation is that the higher values were mainly used on home letters, the 2d. values remaining in the colony (2d. being the inland rate here for many years), and that even at this distance of time the exchanges which have taken place between the two countries have not been sufficient to equalize the relative rarity of the two classes of stamps here and in the old country.

Current “N.Z.’s” Varieties

Considerable interest is now being taken by collectors here in the varieties of paper and perf. of the ½d. and 1d. of 1901-2, it being now generally recognized, as the result of the recent controversy in the philatelic journals, that the statements made (by writers who had not sufficient knowledge of the facts) as to their being unnecessary, and even speculative, issues, have failed to rob them of their true status as perfectly legitimate varieties, the result of the efforts of the postal authorities to obtain a paper and perforating machines satisfactory in all respects.

Some of these varieties, particularly the stamps on the thin, hard papers perforated 11, are very scarce and much sought after.

N.Z. Perforating Machines

Whilst on the subject of perforations, I may remark that the rotary machines at present in use here (gaining 14 and 11 respectively) have proved very unsatisfactory, as evidenced by the generally rough and imperfect perforation of the current stamps, and the objectionable “mixed” varieties which have resulted from the Government printer’s attempts to remedy the bad work done by the machines.

I hear that new and better machines are likely soon to be imported, which, while they will have the undesirable effect of creating fresh varieties of perforation, yet appear to be badly wanted.

“Penny-in-the-Slot” Stamps

I clip from the *Australian Philatelist* of 1st July 1905, the following description of a local invention which is at present being tried at the Wellington Post Office.

Mr. L. A. Sanderson, Secretary of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, has sent our publisher a copy of an article that appeared in the *Evening Post* (Wellington) of June 16th, also a pair and a single specimen of the present 1d. stamp as supplied by the machine in question. The article reads as follows:—“Yesterday, at the General Post Office vestibule there was installed the latest contrivance for issuing stamps automatically. The machine was invented by Mr. R. J. Dickie, of the Chief Post Office staff, and Mr. J. H. Brown, photographer of this city. It is claimed to be that long-sought desideratum, an automatic contrivance that cannot be tampered with. It is necessary to raise a small metal shutter to put a penny in the slot, and until the shutter is absolutely closed again the mechanism of the machine cannot come into action. Thus there is no possibility of the instrument being worked by means of a penny on a string or similar illicit devices. The mechanism is simplicity itself, a fluted sprocket wheel with weight attached being set in motion by the descending coin so as to make a single stamp project from a second slot. The action of the front slot is such that immediately it is opened it closes the second slot. The whole mechanism is only 9 in. by 4 in. in extent, and the instrument may be charged to carry from £1 to £100 in penny stamps. A machine of this type will save an immense amount of time to the Post Office officials, and will also afford an easy means of getting stamps when the Post Office and shops are closed—a matter of some importance in these days of early closing. It is adapted to fixing on to pillar-posts, and is at once strong and inexpensive to make. Patent protection has been obtained through Messrs. Parl and Basley, and a company will probably be formed for future developments.”

“The single stamp shows at each side an irregular perforation 9½, and the top and bottom unperforated. The pair of stamps shows how the stamps are kept into place in the machine. It is evident that the unperforated sheet is divided into strips of the width of the stamp. Between each stamp are two holes, 2 mm in diameter and 11 mm. apart from each other, made no doubt by two needles. The perforator must close on the stamp as soon as it appears out of the slot, and the person wanting the stamp has simply to tear it off the perforator. The idea is a good and useful one but its present condition is open to improvement.”

This description is fairly correct, except that the perforator (or, more properly, rouletting instrument) does not close upon the stamp as soon as it appears out of the slot, but only when it is pulled. Thus it is the purchaser, instead of pulling off the first stamp that appears, goes on raising the shutter, putting in

nies, and lowering the shutter, he will obtain a p of stamps, imperforate top and bottom, and ided at the sides only by the two large holes rred to above, another stamp being pushed out for ry penny put in. The rouletting mechanism does come into operation until he pulls out the last np he wants.

I may also remark that the rouletter now being used in the machine is of considerably finer gauge than the one first used, and which is described in the above extract.

I send you a single stamp and a pair treated by this machine.

J. H. W. WARDROP.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

The July monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Junior Philatelic Society, the following members were elected: Latimer H. Saunders, Stow, R.S.O.; Ralph Mollet, St. Helier, Jersey; J. Chapman, Hounslow; H. W. Sharp, Lincoln; H. Moulds, Ilford, Essex; C. R. Robinson, Darling-; Miss A. E. Pearson, Knutsford. The Committee is now prepared to accept subscriptions dating from the time of joining till October, 1906, 1s. 6d., the ordinary annual subscription. All applications for particulars, and the handy twenty-four page booklet of the Society, should be made to H. F. Johnson, Honorary Secretary, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

The August monthly meeting of the General Committee was held on the 10th inst., when the following members were elected:—

B. Norman, jun., Chesham; Mrs. Ellen Etherington, Rochdale; H. Alsop, Bristol; J. F. Peace, Effield; C. P. Rogers, Chiswick; M. Winifriede Jden, Wells; J. B. Moore, Belfast; Miss H. dews, Caterham Valley; D. C. Gray, London; D. Cheveley, Brockley; W. F. Dick, West Green. The next meeting of the Committee for the election of new members will be held on Thursday the 14th September. All applicants should note that an annual subscription (1s. 6d.) paid now will hold good till October, 1906.

An extensive and novel programme is in preparation for the coming season, and will be sent to any one applying for the same as soon as ready. All communications should be addressed to the honorary secretary, H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

The Garden Party

The garden party given by the Junior Philatelic Society in honour of Mr. Willard O. Wylie on Saturday, August 12th, was a thorough success. Mr. Wylie is on the board of vice-presidents of the American Philatelic Association and is editor of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*. Some two hundred and seventy members and friends passed into the beautiful grounds of Hambly House, Acre Lane, which were thrown open for the occasion. It was a day of cheerful levity. The keynote to the evening was sounded on the front of the long programme which had been prepared for the occasion.

"There's a collector we wot of called Wylie,
Of whom we all think very hylic;
He's come from the Hub
To visit our Club,
So we're all here to greet him in style."

Several novel and interesting entertainments had been arranged, and telegraphic communication had

been established round the grounds. This connected the "P. T. O." (Platform Telegraph Office) with the "R. T. O." (Refreshments Telegraph Office), and by giving the number of one's tiny table to the telegraph clerk at P. T. O. one's tea or ices would be brought along with the least possible delay from R. T. O. Messages were flying over the wires all the afternoon, commencing with a wire from Mr. H. F. Johnson, the Secretary, conveying the welcome and the greetings of the members of the Junior Philatelic Society to Mr. Wylie.

Mr. Wylie replied also by telegraph:—

"MY DEAR MR. JOHNSON,—I heartily thank you for the greetings extended by wire. It is indeed very kind of your Society to honour me with this reception, and the occasion will be one long to be remembered by me because of your kindness.

"WILLARD O. WYLIE."

Mr. Leonard Wright's orchestra "discoursed sweet music," to use a somewhat hackneyed phrase, throughout the afternoon, while the folks were having their teas and other refreshments. At 5.30 a short but very select little concert was commenced. Miss Esther Molton played a charming overture, and Mr. Lloyd Williams followed with his quaintly funny story of "The Dover Express." An encore brought some rather tall stories, which took out a little of the rare colour of the *American* flag, which draped along with a Union Jack over the pavilion.

Mrs. Munro, who is a skilful violinist, delighted everyone with her execution of Svendsen's "Romanze," and German dances from "Nell Gwyn." Mr. Gillam followed with a cornet solo, "Because," which held the audience delighted to the end; and an additional item on the programme, which was most highly appreciated, was that afforded by Mr. W. E. Lincoln's excellent recital of a scene from "Midsummer Night's Dream." The humorist (or at least one of them), Mr. George Buck, arrived too late for the concert, but he provided a pleasant little interlude later in the evening by singing three comic songs, some of which had been adapted for the special edification of the company present. "On the Piano," which makes use of some musical expressions, was thus twisted:—

"Now you're a cute stamp dealer and you think that you have got *A flat*.
You bring out all your forgeries and try to sell the lot. *Quite natural*.
But if he should understand your *play*, and see that you are *bass*,
You will do well and wisely if you quickly change your face
And instead of a (*pianissimo*) flat, you'll have found his Grace *A sharp*."

A song called "Snapshots" gave a snapshot as follows:—

"A girl to a post office went
To wire a message to a gent;
But she used a queer foreign stamp,
About the size of a guinea gamp.

"That's no good," said the officious clerk;
'Surely you've done this just for a lark.'
'Yes,' cried the girl, ere she took to her heels;
'Tis a picture I've cut from this week's *Mekeel's*."

The band (which was under the *Baton Rouge* of Mr. Leonard Wright) also played for a short dance, from 7.30 to 9.30. The grand pianoforte (*Nine*) came from Brinsmead. The tea (China and Ceylon!) and refreshments were by Schlarb. At 7.30 the *Pleasant Shade* was, without the aid of *Oil Rivers*, transformed into a *Tierra del Fuego* by the Thorne and Hoddle Acetylene Co., Ltd.

Altogether a most successful afternoon and evening were passed, and Mr. Wylie's visit will long be remembered with the greatest pleasure by all who were present.

Durban and District Society

President: J. Wallace Bradley.

Secretary: A. Guttesen, 25, Castle Arcade, Durban.

Meetings: Bristow's Buildings, Durban.

Annual Subscription: Seniors, 5s.; Juniors, 2s. 6d.

A GENERAL meeting of the above Society was held in their new rooms, Bristow's Buildings, Durban, Natal, on the 18th July last, a large attendance responding. Mr. A. L. Austin was elected chairman for the evening. The usual business was transacted, and several new members were proposed. The members proposed at the last meeting were duly elected. Considering the short time the Society has been formed, it has been fortunate in securing a membership of nearly forty members, all ardent philatelists, including some of the leading business men of the town, who obtain relaxation in their stamp collections when the day's business is over.

The Secretary, Mr. A. Guttesen, read a number of letters received from ladies and gentlemen, all over the country, wishing to join the Society.

It was proposed to make a collection of Africa stamps to send to the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1906. This proposal was left over until the next meeting.

The rule books and the approval books were the sold to the members at 3d. and 2d. respectively.

The Secretary, Mr. A. Guttesen, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. A. L. Austin for his kind gift of bound volume of the *Postage Stamps of Africa*. This book is the first step to the Society's library and many promises have been received for future gifts.

An exhibition of some very scarce stamps took place, including a series of uncatalogued varieties the exhibit being interesting.

The chairman, in closing the meeting, expressed his pleasure at the increased membership, which augured well for the future welfare of the Society and wished to impress upon those present and other the next meeting would take place in their new rooms, Bristow's Buildings, West Street, on Tuesday next, August 1st, at 7.45 p.m., and not at the Secretary's address, 25, Castle Arcade.

The following are the officials for the ensuing year: Patrons, His Excellency Sir Henry McCallum A.D.C., K.C.M.G., and Sir Benjamin Greenacre K.B.; President, Mr. J. Wallace Bradley; Vice-President, Mr. G. E. McLaren; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. A. Guttesen, 25, Castle Arcade, West Street, Durban, Natal; Committee, Messrs. S. Owe Thornhill, A. Lyddon Austin, W. R. Woodroffe, P. L. Jaques, and J. Schultz.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Forthcoming Auctions

IN a few days the various Stamp auctioneers will be busy playing the hammer for a start with the new season.

The first to start will be Glendining & Co., who will open the ball on the 18th inst. with a three days' sale. Plumridge & Co. will follow on the 21st and 22nd; Puttick & Simpson on the 26th and 27th; and Ventom, Bull, & Cooper on the 28th and 29th—all very nicely arranged so as not to clash.

Glendining's Big Sale

THIS three days' sale will be an important one, for it will include the very fine collection formed by Mr. Smith-Ryland, of Barford Hill, Warwick. Mr. Ryland is one of a family who did such a lot of good for Birmingham, by presenting two of the largest parks, namely, Cannon Hill Park and Calthorpe Park, and also gave a great deal of money to the hospitals; but as he has gone in for other hobbies he has decided to give up his stamps, and has placed them with

Glendining & Co. for realization, recognizing that during the last season they were successful in obtaining the highest prices. The firm has already sent out a very large number of these catalogues to its American clients, who are growing more and more numerous every year.

Amongst the rarities will be found the 3 lire Tuscany, in unused and used states: the rare error ($\frac{1}{2}$ engr. blue) of Saxony: Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ T., blue, Arms, and $\frac{1}{2}$ T. Cross, both unused: 2 Rs., 1852, of Spain, unused rare Swiss: Cape, 1d. blue woodblock; 4d. blue woodblock, retouched variety, unused; 4d. woodblock, deep blue, unused: "Post Paid" Mauritius B.C.A., £10 and £20, no wmk., mint: 4d., imperf. Ceylon: pair of 1d. on half 5s. Barbados: Gt. Britain 10s., grey, wmk. Maltese Cross, mint, and 1d., black V.R.: St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s. vermilion, 5s. rose rare Turks Islands: Natal, 9d. and 1s., first issue and fine Australians.

It will be interesting to note what these rarities fetch. The unused 3 lire, Tuscany, should cause flutter and run well up into three figures.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

SEPTEMBER, 1905

18, 19, & 20. Auction: Glendining & Co., 7 Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

21 & 22. Auction: Plumridge & Co., 64 Chancery Lane, London.

25. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—How to increase the membership, opened by A. Moffatt; Display—British South Africa and Persia.

26 & 27. Auction: Puttick & Simpson, 47 Leicester Square.

28 & 29. Auction: Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, Strand, London.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Camanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 11

9 SEPTEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

Whole No. 36

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Argentine Republic (continued)

HAVING dealt with all the earlier issues, we now come to the series of 1889-90. Hitherto the stamps have all been of somewhat large dimensions. The new series of 1889-90 introduced a much smaller size of stamp, neat and uniform.

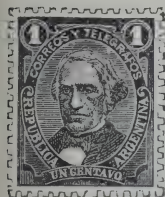
1889-90. Twelve values, each value provided with a distinctive design and a separate portrait of some public man of Argentina. Rivadavia of course figures on one value. A new low value of $\frac{1}{4}$ centavo was included, presumably for circulars, but it has not been continued in subsequent series.



Paz.



Urquiza.



Saersfield.



Derqui.



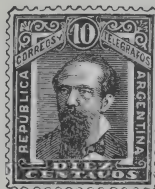
Celman.



Rivadavia.



Sarmiento.



Avellaneda.



Alberdi.



Dorrego.



Mitre.



Posadas.

No wmk. Perf. Unused. Used.
s. d. s. d.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 c., green | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 c., ultramarine | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 c., brown | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 c., violet | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 c., purple | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 3 c., blue-green | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 5 c., rose-red | . | . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 c., slate-blue | . | . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 |
| 10 c., dark brown | . | . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 12 c., deep blue | . | . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| 40 c., olive-grey | . | . | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 50 c., orange | . | . | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| 60 c., blue-black | . | . | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

1890. Provisional. Despite the fact that the $\frac{1}{4}$ centavo value has been dis-

continued, the demand for it when first issued was apparently considerable, for a provisional became necessary in a very few months after the first stamp of that value was put on sale. This provisional was provided by surcharging the current 12 c., blue, with the fraction " $\frac{1}{4}$ " as illustrated. Some of the sheets were done in red and some in blue.



Provisional.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ in black on 12 c., deep blue | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ in red on 12 c., " " | 0 1 | 0 1 |

1890-2. The engraving of the 1 c. and 5 c. does not seem to have been quite satisfactory, for both stamps were redrawn and re-engraved. In the 1 c. the alteration is most marked in the clearer numerals in the top corners, and in the 5 c. the principal alteration is in the upper portion of the design.

Types redrawn.
No wmk. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., brown | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., dull scarlet | 0 2 | 0 1 |

1891. Four new values. An 8 c. and some peso values to complete the series. The peso stamps were of a larger size, in long rectangular shape, to distinguish them as high values.



Rivadavia.



San Martin.



La Madrid.



W. Brown.

| | New values. No wmk. Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 8 c., rose-carmine | . | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 1 p., deep blue | . | 12 6 | 3 6 |
| 5 p., ultramarine | . | 50 0 | 15 0 |
| 20 p., green | . | £5 | 50 0 |

1892-5. Another series of portraits severely plain designs. Three portraits serve for the entire series of thirteen values. Rivadavia appears on the low values, $\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1 c., 2 c., 3 c., and 5 c. Belgrano on the middle values, 10 c., 12 c., 16 c., 24 c., and 50 c.; and San Martin, in military costume, on the peso values. The paper on which the stamps were printed was watermarked with Sun with rays.



Rivadavia.

Wmk. Sun. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ c., blue | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ c., slate-blue | 0 1 | 0 2 |
| 1 c., brown | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., green | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 3 c., orange | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., rose-red | 0 3 | 0 1 |



Belgrano.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 10 c., dull red | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 12 c., deep blue | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 16 c., slate | 1 0 | 0 1 |
| 24 c., sepia | 0 9 | 0 2 |
| 50 c., deep green | 4 0 | 0 3 |



San Martin.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 p., dull red . . . | 30 0 | 1 6 |
| 1 p., lake . . . | 10 0 | 0 6 |
| 2 p., deep green. . . | 12 6 | 0 9 |
| 5 p., deep indigo . . . | 25 0 | 2 0 |



Watermark.

1892. A Columbus Centenary Celebration stamp, in two low values, was issued in October, 1892. As will be seen from the illustration, it bears the dates 12 OCTUBRE 1492 and 12 OCTUBRE 1892.



Columbian issue.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 c., pale blue . . . | 0 6 | 0 6 |
| 5 c., deep blue . . . | 0 6 | 0 6 |

1889-90. A new series, in which portraits of Argentine celebrities give place to a female figure, presumably representing the Goddess of Liberty, seated with a shield, on which is figured the celebrated cap of liberty. The same design serves for all values, the pesos being of larger size and long rectangular in shape.



Wmk. Sun. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., brown . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 1 c., bluish green . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., dark indigo . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., carmine . . . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 10 c., deep green . . . | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 12 c., slate-blue . . . | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 16 c., orange . . . | 5 0 | — |
| 20 c., lake . . . | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 24 c., violet . . . | 0 7 | 0 2 |
| 30 c., carmine . . . | 2 6 | 0 6 |
| 50 c., bright blue . . . | 1 3 | 0 2 |



Central design in black.

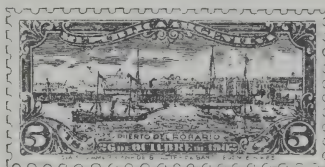
| | | |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| 1 p., deep blue . . . | 2 6 | 0 3 |
| 5 p., brown-orange . . . | 11 0 | 4 0 |
| 10 p., deep green . . . | 22 0 | 10 0 |
| 20 p., carmine . . . | 33 0 | 25 0 |

1891. Some new values and changes of colour of same type as last issue.

Same wmk. and perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 3 c., orange . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 4 c., yellow . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 6 c., black . . . | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 12 c., olive-green . . . | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 15 c., slate-blue . . . | 0 5 | 0 2 |

1902. Another Commemoration stamp.



Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 c., deep blue . . . | 0 4 | 0 4 |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

FIRST STEPS IN PHILATELY

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 151.)

Values expressed in Words

Our second group consists of a selection of Teutonic languages. Of these, the Dutch is especially useful, as many issues of Transvaal and the Orange Free State had the values inscribed in this language.

| Dutch | German | Denmark | Sweden |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------|--------|
| ¹ / ₂ een half | ein halber | een halv | half |
| 1 een | ein | een | en |
| 2 twee | zwei | to | tva |
| 3 drie | drei | tre | tre |
| 4 vier | vier | fire | fyra |
| 5 vijf | funf | fem | fem |
| 6 zes | sechs | sex | sex |
| 7 zeven | sieben | syv | sju |
| 8 acht | acht | otto | atta |
| 9 negen | neun | ni | nie |
| 10 tien | zehn | ti | tie |
| 20 twintig | zwanzig | tyve | tjugo |

The Dutch numerals are in use in the Dutch Indies, Curaçao and Surinam, and formerly in the late Republic of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

The German use exists in all the provinces which go to make up the German Empire, and the German provinces of Austria.

The Danish is also in use in Norway, Iceland, and the Danish Antilles.

Finland is the only country which shared the Swedish use.

This concludes our brief survey of the numerals in use in some of the principal European countries. The writer's object has been to supply tables of reference, so that, in the few doubtful cases, the beginner may have something more than the colour of the stamp to guide him to a knowledge of its face value.

We come now to our fourth heading, viz. "Moneys in use in the principal countries." As I look back over previous articles I find that many calculations have already been made, and their results

given, in order that the reader might form an approximate idea of the face value of foreign stamps in terms of our own coinage. Therefore, lest the reader should conclude that arithmetical examples on monetary values are better suited to the class-room than to the breezy pages of *G.S.W.*, I have refrained from adding to the many monetary references which have already been made from time to time.

Doubtless, if any ardent mathematician desires further knowledge in the comparison of face values, our genial Editor will be only too pleased to enlighten him in the "Answers to Correspondents" column.

It is now time for us to indulge in a little retrospect. "First Steps" began on the 1st of April. The face of a stamp and the inscription thereon ought now to be something more than a picture in the eyes of the beginner who has read these articles. In fact, if one may draw the obvious analogy, he has taken his "first steps" and is now well enough equipped to follow the writer into a wider field. Many are the questions that await us. There is the album question, which is very important. Arrangement of stamps, nature and detection of watermarks, measurement of surcharges, stamps to look for, stamps to avoid and why—these and many other points occur to my mind. Each may well occupy the space of one or more future articles. They will not, however, appear under the heading of "First Steps," for they rightly belong to a higher platform on the philatelic stage. In concluding this series I should like to add that if any beginner has picked up a few crumbs of knowledge on his hobby, the labour involved on the part of the writer has been amply repaid.

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Including a full Descriptive Catalogue, and illustrated with several thousand full-sized reproductions of the stamps. In one volume, 622 pages. Size of each page, 10x13 inches. Printed on one side of the paper only, catalogue and illustrations on the left, and spaces to correspond on the right-hand pages. All minor varieties of perforation, watermark, and type are omitted, and only such varieties are included as can be distinguished by the young philatelist. Space has been provided for some 18,000 stamps, and provision made for new issues by the insertion of numerous blank pages. Post-free, 13s. 4d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PORTRAITS ON STAMPS

By BOSWELL JUNIOR

Colombia (continued)

Narino, Antonio, was born at Bogota in 1765, and died at Villa d' Leiva in December, 1823. He is described as a New Grenadian patriot, and as a noted orator and writer. He held important offices under the Viceroy's during Spanish rule, but



General Narino.

he seems to have got into trouble for publishing a Spanish translation of the *Droits les hommes*, for which he was thrown into prison, where he remained till the revolution of 1810, when he regained his freedom, and forthwith joined the revolutionists. He was subsequently elected President of Cundinamarca, and assumed the leadership of the Centralist Republicans in the civil wars of 1811-13. In 1813 he gained several victories over the Spaniards in the south, but was finally defeated at Pasto, captured and sent to Spain, where he remained a prisoner for four years. In 1822 he was back and in office as Vice-President and Senator.

Pinzon, Carl Prospero. There is an *embarras de richesses* of Pinzons. Columbus had two captains who were brothers, and each commanded a vessel of his fleet. Vincent Yanez Pinzon on one of the voyages struck the coast of Brazil, probably near the Cape



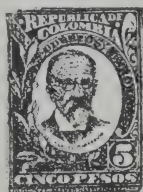
General Pinzon.

St. Augustine, thence followed it north-

ward and north-westward, discovering the mouth of the Amazon. Then there was a later Pinzon, a rear-admiral, who commanded a Spanish naval squadron sent to Peru in 1864. But our Gibbons styles our philatelic Pinzon a general, and as all these Pinzons I have hunted up were of the naval rather than the military persuasion, I trust some reader of *G.S.W.* will be able to help us to some reliable particulars concerning our general. Carl Prospero is not to be found in any of the many works I have searched.

His portrait, such as it is, appears on the 1 peso of 1903-4.

Marroquin, Senor J. M., a Colombian statesman, was elected Vice-President in 1898. An insurrection broke out shortly after his election, and President Sanclemente, then eighty years of age, unable to stand the strain, temporarily abandoned his duties to Marroquin. "In 1900,"



Marroquin.

writes Mr. C. E. Akers, "Vice-President Marroquin determined to be President in name as well as in act. With the assistance of a group of his political friends in Bogota, a plan was formed to depose President Sanclemente and proclaim Señor Marroquin as President, and this plot was executed without resistance. Marroquin was duly recognised as President for the unfinished portion of the term for which Sanclemente was chosen, which expired in August, 1904. Sanclemente died eighteen months after his deposition."

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII., or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$; available for mounting stamps, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

A CLEVER DODGE

By TANCRED

IT is usually believed that H.E. The Viceroy is all-powerful in India, but from my experience the plague inspectors at frontier railway stations wield more autocratic power. The words and works of a governor-general are frequently criticized by those who have nothing better to do, but woe betide the unfortunate European who tries to score off a plague inspector. Personally, I would rather try conclusions with a London cabby, and every one knows what that means.

These inspectors are usually Eurasian Jacks-in-office, full of their own importance and determined to make matters as unpleasant as possible. They have almost unlimited powers, and can take passengers out of a train and segregate them if their temperatures are a fraction too high, and they are at liberty to ask all sorts of idiotic and irrelevant questions—such as one's age, father's name, religion, etc., none of which can have any bearing on one's present physical fitness.

I was told to be very careful not to offend any of these wretches, and the following sad story shows how I was victimized.

The usual stations for inspection are at the towns where the railway crosses the frontier between a native State and British

India, and it was at one of these that my misfortune occurred.

When, o'er the Krishna River looming,
Towered the mountains of Mysore,
A squalid "snuff-and-butter" nigger
Thundered on the carriage door.

"May I ask your destination?"
Queries Mister "Whity-brown";
"And have you been inoculated
In the Presidency town?"

"What's your age, and whose your father?"
Then your pulse he'll wildly clutch;
Tries your temperature and temper
(And the latter *very* much).

Then, his eye ope'd wide in wonder,
On the seat a box he sees;
"Ah! I'd like to see what's in it,
Kindly give me up your keys."

In this box was my collection
("Oriels" packed in lamb's-wool cases),
Errors from each land and nation,
Queensland and New South Wales.

Then this "snuff-and-butter" *wallah*
Said (to my entire surprise),
"With permanganate of potash
Paper I must sterilize."

Then he took my box of treasures
To the segregation shed;
When I murmured, he responded—
"Lucky *you* aren't there instead."

Then the whistle shrilly sounded,
Back to carriages we went,
I without my loved collection,
And on murdering intent.

Then a horrid thought came o'er me,
Pulsed within my aching head,
That was *not* a plague inspector,
But a *Railway Thief* instead.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Forty Rarest Stamp Errors

WE have had list after list of the rarest stamps, but probably no two collectors of wide experience would agree all through such a list. It is very much like the hundred best books. No two authorities have yet agreed as to what such a list should include and exclude.

But the question has now been narrowed down to the rarest stamp errors. Here is the first list, confined to the "forty rarest errors," and published in the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal*:—

1. Spain, 1851, 2 reales, blue, instead of red.
2. Austria, 1867, 3 kr., red, instead of green.
3. Baden, first issue, 9 kr., green, instead of rose.

4. West Australia, 1854, 4d., blue, inverted centre.
5. South Australia, 1870, 4d., blue, without surcharge "3 pence."
6. Saxony, 1851, $\frac{1}{2}$ ngr., blue, instead of grey.
7. U.S.A., 1869, 30 c., inverted centre.
8. Cape of Good Hope, 1861, 1d., blue, so-called woodblock.
9. Spain, 1876, 25 m., blue and rose, inverted frame.
10. U.S.A., 1869, 24 c., inverted centre.
11. U.S.A., 1869, 15 c., inverted centre.
12. U.S.A., 1901, 4 c., inverted centre.
13. Cape of Good Hope, 1861, 4d., red, so-called woodblock.
14. Finland, 1891, 3 r. 50 k., yellow and black, instead of grey and black.
15. Great Britain, 1869, 10d., red-brown, watermark Emblems, instead of Spray of Rose.
16. U.S.A., 1901, 2 c., inverted centre.
17. India, 1854, 4 a., inverted frame.
18. East Roumelia, 1881, 10 p., black and rose.
19. West Australia, 1869, 1s., olive-brown, instead of green.

20. Finland, 1866, 5 kop., black on yellow, instead of brown-lilac on grey.
21. New South Wales, 1856, 3d., green, watermark 2.
22. Colombia, 1863, 50 c., red.
23. Gibraltar, 1889 (10 c.), carmine, value omitted.
24. Mauritius, 1848, 2d., blue, "Penoe," instead of "Pence."
25. West Australia, 1865, 2d., lilac, instead of yellow.
26. Colombia, 1863, 2 c., green.
27. Sweden, 1872, "Tretio Oere," red, instead of "Tjugo Oere."
28. Philippine Islands, 1854, 1 r. f., blue, "Corros," instead of "Correos."
29. Switzerland, 1862, 10 c., blue, figures of value impressed twice.
30. Spain, 1855, 2 r., green-blue, instead of brown-violet.
31. Peru, 1858, medio peso, red, instead of yellow.
32. Porto Rico, 1882, 20 c.p., olive-brown, instead of lilac-grey.
33. Switzerland, 1867, 25, green, figures of value impressed twice.
34. Finland, 1866, 10 kop., brown-lilac on grey, instead of black on yellow.
35. Bulgaria, 1884, 5 st., rose, instead of green.
36. Guatemala, 1882, 5 c., red and green, inverted centre.
37. New South Wales, 1851, laurel wreath, 3d., "Waces," instead of "Wales."
38. Spain, 1865, 12 c., blue and rose, inverted centre.
39. France, 1872, 15 c., brown on rose, instead of yellow.
40. Porto Rico, 1877, 5 c.p., carmine, instead of brown.

Mr. Castle's Criticism

Mr. M. P. Castle, one of the shrewdest judges of rarities of all classes, whilst admitting that this list is drawn up with evident care, takes exception to the inclusion of varieties of watermark. Then, again, he contends that the question of what are errors is open to debate, and instances the "Post Office" Mauritius, which is not to be found in this list; but, as Mr. Castle points out, it was no doubt an "error," for the engraver forgot or neglected to use the word "Paid," and used instead the word "Office," making the lettering read "Post Office," instead of "Post Paid."

Mr. Castle's "Fourteen Rarest Errors"

Then we get from Mr. Castle the most interesting list of all, to wit, his own, but narrowed down to fourteen. Here is the list:—

The Fourteen Rarest Errors

1. Spain, 1851, 2 r., blue.
2. Austria, 1867, 3 k., red.
3. Spain, 1876, 25 m., inverted centre.
4. Baden, first issue, 9 k., green.
5. S. Australia, 1870, 4d., blue.
6. W. Australia, 4d., centre inverted.
7. India, 1854, 4 a., inverted frame.
8. Finland, 1866, 5 k., black on yellow.
9. U.S.A., 1869, 30 c., inverted centre.
10. Saxony, 1851, ½ ngr., blue.
11. Finland, 1891, 3 k., yellow and black.
12. U.S.A., 1901, 2 c., centre inverted.
13. Cape of Good Hope, 1d., blue.
14. Cape of Good Hope, 4d., red.

A Simplified Catalogue Wanted

THERE is quite an outcry against the complexities of the modern stamp catalogue. Mr. Castle, commenting on the terrifying growth of colour names in our "Gibbons," says:—

It once more demonstrates, as we have so often urged in these columns, the utter unsuitability of the modern catalogue to the requirements of any one but the advanced collector and specialist. . . . What, however, is food for the advanced student is poison for the general collector, and it is one more unanswerable argument—were that needed—in favour of some more simple method of inviting the unsuspecting fly into our philatelic web.

The Editor of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* also has something pertinent to say about the matter:—

The thing of which there is most need at the present day is a properly simplified catalogue. Our "Gibbons," while an admirable and marvellous publication, is worse than useless to the beginner, and the chances are that after trying to identify "toned," "thick," "wove," and "laid" papers, single and compound perfs., to say nothing of shades and watermarks, he throws up the hobby in disgust as being "too much fag."

The *P. J. of G. B.* would cut the number of varieties down to the lowest possible limit, so much as to list only those that can be readily identified. "Watermarks, perforations, and paper variations would, of course, be excluded, but as even the mortal most ignorant of Philately might be expected to be able to distinguish the difference between an imperforate and a perforated stamp, there is no reason why they should not be included." And then it naively adds, "Here is a chance for an enterprising stamp dealer to benefit Philately in general." Ah! The publishers of the *P. J. of G. B.* would like to see the work done—by others.

But it is Coming

It is not all beer and skittles doing catalogues. I have unwisely entered the sanctum in which the late Gordon Smith and the Managing Director have been worrying over the "next" Catalogue, and the indecent haste with which I have been bundled out of that room on to the floor below has almost made me vow I would buy no more "Post Office" Mauritius sheets from that firm.

Still, I believe I am betraying no secret when I say that Gibbons will before long give birth to a Simplified Catalogue for the Young Collector.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Abyssinia.—We quote the following from *Ewen's Weekly* :—

"We find some interesting information relating to the stamps of this country in the *Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal* (8.05/329).

"The Ethiopian post was established on 22.8.99, although the stamps had been on sale, both unused and 'postmarked,' for several years previously. In May, 1899, the unsurcharged set was withdrawn and a new set with overprint 'Ethiopie' substituted. This in its turn was superseded in April, 1902, by a set overprinted 'Bosta,' in Amharic characters, and the latter in April? 1903, by another new set, this time overprinted 'Malekat,' also in Amharic characters. In November, 1904, a second printing of a thousand sets of the latter was made, the overprint being slightly smaller.

"On 1.1.05 the stamps were overprinted with European currency. In the first printing the surcharge was made in various colours, blue, red, violet, grey, black; in the second printing, now in use, the overprint is uniformly in violet. An exception is made with the blue 1 gairsh, which is overprinted in aniline red. Through carelessness many stamps had the overprint inverted.

"At the end of January, and during February and March, the 5 c. stamps were exhausted, they were accordingly replaced by the $\frac{1}{2}$ gairsh overprinted 'Ethiopie' and afterwards by 'Bosta,' plus '05.' In some of the 'Bosta' series the value '05' has a bar under it. When these were used up the $\frac{1}{2}$ gairsh red was surcharged '5 c/m' on each half and cut diagonally for use. When on 30.3.05 the ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$ gairsh with overprint '05' in violet was again exhausted, the Post Office made 500 each of the 16 gairsh, overprinted 'Ethiopie' and 'Bosta,' into $\frac{1}{2}$ gairsh stamps by surcharging '05.'"

From this list we gather the following unchronicled varieties :—



Adhesives. Overprinted with value in French currency.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| "05" in — (2) on $\frac{1}{2}$ gairsh, already overprinted "Bosta." | "Malekat." |
| "05" in — (2) on $\frac{1}{4}$ " " " " | "Ethiopie." |
| "05" in — (2) on 16 " " " " | "Bosta." |
| "05" in — (2) on 16 " " " " | " " |
| "05" in violet on $\frac{1}{2}$ gairsh, green. | " " |
| "80" " on 4 " brown-lilac. | " " |

Belgium.—We illustrate the 50 c. chronicled in our last number.



Holland.—Our publishers send us a new high value, a 10 gulden, of the same type as the other gulden values. The colour is a delicate pale orange-brown.

Hitherto the highest value has been a 5 gulden. We append the full list of high values to date.



Perf.

| |
|-----------------------|
| 1 gulden, blue-green. |
| 2½ " dull lilac. |
| 5 " lake. |
| 10 " orange-brown. |

St. Vincent.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. announce the receipt of the 6d. value on the multiple paper. This makes four values in all on the new paper up to date.

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

| |
|-------------------------|
| ½d., purple and green. |
| 1d. " carmine. |
| 6d. " brown. |
| 1s., green and carmine. |

Switzerland.—We have received the current 30 c. with a new watermark which, we understand, is "all over the sheet." The single stamp does not enable us to say what this new watermark is like. Next week we shall be able to describe it more definitely.

A SPLENDID START. THE FINEST PACKET.

Packet No. 67, 1,000 varieties. This packet contains 1,000 different Stamps (and no Envelopes, Bands, and Cards), and is the cheapest packet ever offered by S. G., Ltd., satisfaction being absolutely guaranteed. The price it is offered at is the lowest ever quoted for such a collection, embracing as it does scores of scarce varieties, provisionals, new issues, and many very fine and obsolete varieties. 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 39r, Strand, London, W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

Australia's Grand Old Stamp

It may not be generally known," remarks the *Australian Philatelist*, "that the 1st of December, 1905, will see the jubilee of that grand old stamp, the 1d., diadem, New South Wales, this stamp having been issued on the 1st December, 1855. The other stamps of the 1854-6 diadem series that has survived the many changes in design since those dates is the 3d., whose jubilee will be in October, 1906." Our contemporary is not prepared at present with any suggestion how to celebrate the jubilee, except to hint that the Sydney Philatelic Club, as the leading philatelic institution in New South Wales, should take the form of celebration in its own hand. "In the interests of collectors" (adds the *Australian Philatelist*) "we are against the issue of a special stamp for the occasion."



If a suggestion may be proffered from the old country, we propose that the postal authorities celebrate the fiftieth birthday of this venerable fivepenny stamp by changing its colour on that date from the present rich green to some equally distinctive tint, while in all other respects preserving the present form of the stamp. This would create a new variety, it is true, but we feel quite sure it would be one that all philatelists would welcome, as marking a jubilee unique in the postal annals of the world. Our friends of the Sydney Philatelic Club may possibly deem the idea good enough to place before the postal administration.

Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

Adhesive Stamps in 1670!

YOU will be specially interested in a discovery affecting French stamps. It has been supposed that the adhesive postage stamp was an invention of the reign of Victoria. But it seems that the earliest specimen goes back to 1670.

An English philatelist has recently come across an official decree in the Paris postal archives which sanctions the use of an adhesive label for the prepayment of the carriage of letters. No trace of the label in question has been found, but a search will now be made for one among the documents and papers in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

Weekly Welcome.

Costume made of Postage Stamps

OVER 30,000 postage stamps were used in the making of a dress for an American lady, which she wore at a ball in Bermuda a short time ago. Years had been spent in collecting the stamps, and three weeks in making the dress, which was of the finest muslin. The lady appealed to her friends to help her, and the dress was completely covered with stamps of all nations. In the centre of the breast was an eagle made entirely with brown Columbian stamps. Suspended from the talons was a globe made of very old blue revenue stamps. On either side of the globe was an American flag, the stripes of blue and red stamps. A collection of foreign stamps was pasted on the back of the bodice in the form of a shield, the

centre of which was made up of a portrait of the brave Sir George Summers, cut from old revenue stamps. A large picture-hat covered with red and blue stamps was worn with the costume; a mask and very pretty fan were covered entirely with pink.

Tit-Bits.

Fined for "Unlawfully Appropriating"

THE young man Barrett, who was recently fined 40s. and costs at the Marylebone Police Court, has since been before the magistrates of Camborne, Cornwall, on a charge of unlawfully appropriating to his own use some 250 stamps which were sent to him by Mr. W. Caddy, of Clinton Road, Redruth, on approval, between 5th and 17th June last, valued at about £4 13s.

The prisoner having pleaded guilty, Mr. C. V. Thomas, who appeared on his behalf, urged their worship to deal as leniently as possible with the prisoner. He considered the defendant's act a stupid one. A large portion of the stamps had been identified by Mr. Caddy in defendant's album, and the remainder would be replaced. About three weeks ago Barrett had been charged with the same thing in London, and was fined 40s. and costs. Prisoner held a responsible position in which money passed through his hands, and his employer took him back after that charge, and if their worship would impose a fair fine his employer would again take him back.

The magistrates decided to fine the accused 50s. and costs, or, in default, two months' imprisonment. Mr. C. V. Thomas declared that the prisoner could not pay and must go to prison, but in the end he was allowed to go free on his solicitor paying one-third of the fine down, the understanding being that Barrett should be allowed two months to pay the remainder of the amount.

Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

The Lowest Face Value Stamp

IT is not generally known that the Filipinos lay claim to having used the postage stamp of the smallest intrinsic value ever issued by any country. The stamp of the denomination of one milésima is worth in our currency only one-fortieth of a penny; in fact, there are five intermediate denominations before the value of two centavos, the equivalent of our half-penny, is reached. But this stamp, infinitesimal in value as it is, does not hold the record. In 1878, for a special purpose, a stamp of the value of '0625 milésima was issued, worth less than one-sixtieth of a penny. In an unused condition it is now a very rare stamp, and collectors will pay £1 each for new copies, or it is worth 15s. after having been used.

Leeds Saturday Journal.

Forged Stamp Factory

A CIRCULAR of an audacious kind has been circulating amongst English stamp collectors during the past week or two.

It comes from Geneva, and offers facsimiles of postage stamps of all nations. These are described as perfect in every way, and the advertiser describes them as "superb imitations."

The execution of the figures, the inscriptions and the surcharges, the colours, the paper, the "indentings," and obliterations are mathematically exact and faithful.

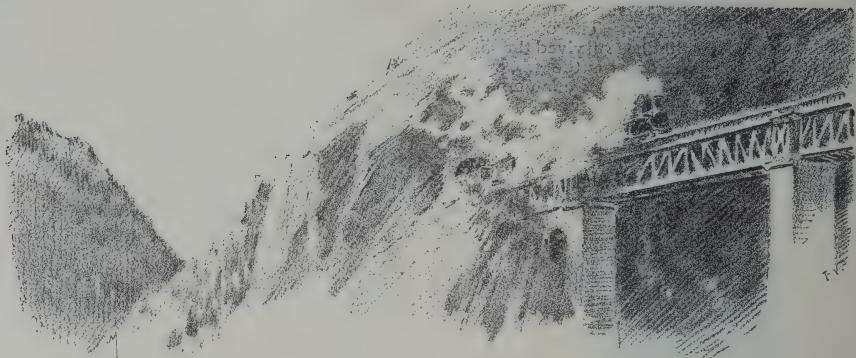
Great Britain is not exempt from the catalogue, and figures prominently in the department allotted to "facsimiles of surcharges on stamps." "Government parcels," "Inland Revenue officials," "Official works," "Admiralty," and "Board of Education" are all to be secured.

The Star.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THE TRAIN SPED ALONG WITH INCREASING VELOCITY

CHAPTER XIX

Wherein Betty proves to William that all roads lead to Rome, even that by way of New York.

SOFTLY couched, and rocked by the vibration of the train, William and the commander did not wake till late the next morning. They were in the station of Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne, and the clocks pointed almost to the hour of nine. John, who, in his position of confidential valet, companion, or we might almost say, friend, had been allowed to profit by the third bed in the half-saloon engaged by William, continued to snore conscientiously, with his nose buried in the pillows. But at a shake from his master he sat up, stupidly wondering if the world had come to an end.

"Come, come, you lazy fellow!" said William. "Are you not ashamed of yourself? It is nine o'clock! Hot water, quick! Arrange my brushes in the dressing-room, let down the shutter, and clean our boots."

John got up quickly to obey his master's orders and opened one of the windows, letting a ray of light penetrate into the carriage together with an exquisite breath of morning air.

"Ah!" said the commander, drawing a long breath, "it is most lovely weather."

The train was now passing through wild valleys, outlined with high mountains, and by the noise the engine made, puffing out its grey smoke with great effort, it was easy to perceive that they were continually mounting higher and higher, and that it needed all its strength to drag the heavy train of carriages up to Mount Cenis.

"No news of our neighbours?" asked Spartivento.

"Faith! no," said William, "and, to judge from their precautions, they seem anxious to keep in hiding."

"Oh, well, it's all the same to me. I am not curious, but I should like to just see their faces."

"You will soon have that satisfaction," said William.

"They are evidently in the same case as we, and must get out at Modena, because of the douane in the first place, and, in the second, to pay for their half of the saloon on the Italian frontier."

"Apropos of which," said the commander, apparently searching for his pocket-book, "I must pay you my share. Have you change for a thousand-franc note?"

"Oh, leave it, leave it, my dear fellow; we can settle all that at Naples."

"As you please." And Spartivento made no further effort, but went on dressing, talking of one thing and another until the train stopped in a large station and they heard a voice shouting, "Modena! All luggage to be examined." Upon which they both jumped out with the satisfaction of people who are at length able to stretch their legs after a long period of inaction. But, instead of going straight over to the douane, they took up a position opposite the next compartment, with the evident intention of seeing something of their invisible neighbours.

Suddenly a cry of stupefaction escaped William's lips, while the commander, turning livid, precipitately retreated into the compartment he had just left.

"Good morning, Mr. Keniss," cried a little mocking voice. "You did not expect me, I see."

And Betty, fresh, bright, and smiling, jumped out on to the platform, followed by Victoria. John, who was descending too, and whom the commander had just knocked down in his haste to regain his place, nearly fell over again with surprise at the sight of Victoria, whose engaging smile could scarcely convince him that it was not a supernatural apparition.

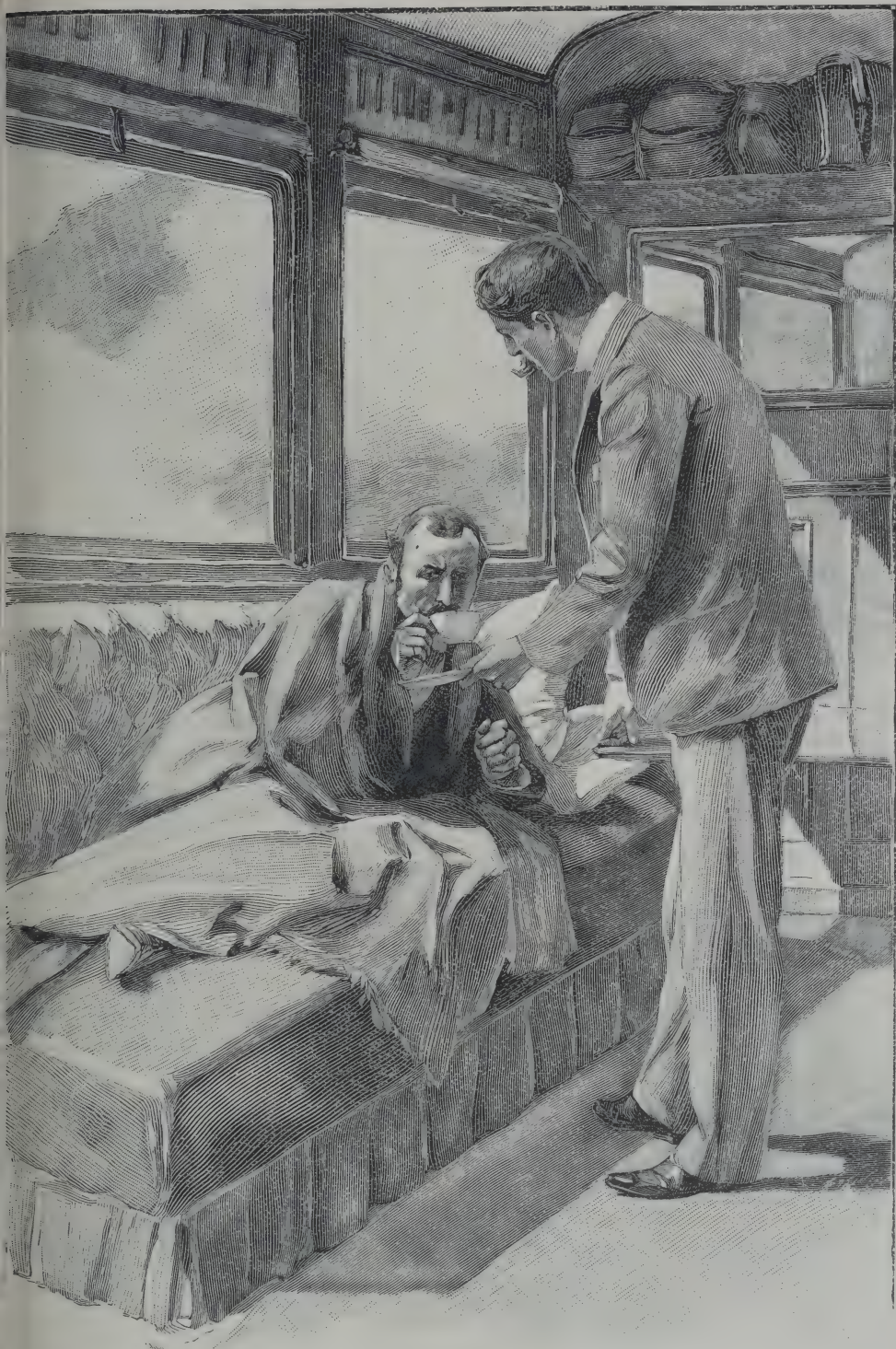
"You! you!" cried William, who also thought himself the victim of a hallucination.

The astonishment of the two men was so complete, and their expression so naively discomfited, that Betty and Victoria could contain themselves no longer, but burst into a roar of laughter.

"To the douane, ladies and gentlemen, if you please," said a big Italian official, bearing down upon them.

He had to repeat his invitation before William could move a step. He remained petrified, and though an American, and consequently little accustomed to be surprised at anything, he tried in vain to gather together his thoughts and account for the presence of his charming rival.

"After all," he said, as they gained the douane,



WILLIAM PREVAILED UPON THE COMMANDER TO DRINK THE BOILING PHYSIC

"you will have to tell me by what unheard-of chance"

"You shall have all explanations in good time," said Betty, laughing. "But had you not someone with you?"

"Why, of course," said William, looking all about.

"Commander Luigi has disappeared!"

"Luigi, did you say?"

"Yes, Commander Luigi Spartivento."

Betty gave vent to an indifferent "Oh!" and inquired no further. But William, being puzzled, returned to the carriage, and, standing on the footboard, perceived the commander busily occupied in rummaging over all the portmanteaus.

"What in the world are you doing there?" asked William Keniss. "Are you not coming?"

"No—no—excuse me," returned the noble Italian, visibly taken aback, "I stayed to take care of our smaller luggage and open it for the officer who comes through the carriages."

"As you like. I will go and superintend the opening of our boxes."

"Good; and then we meet again."

While they exchanged these few words Betty had hastily whispered in her maid's ear—

"Remain near the compartment and notice particularly what this companion of Mr. Keniss is about."

So Victoria planted herself before the door and stayed there, which appeared to so embarrass the commander that he retired into the lavatory.

But the boxes had now been all examined, and William and Betty, having paid for the remainder of their journey, returned to their respective carriages. Then, the signal being given, the train began to wind up the ascent which led, by a number of zigzag turns, to the Mount Cenis tunnel—so called from the neighbourhood of the peak and the name of the old route.

"Can you imagine such a meeting?" said William, entering, to find the commander washing his hands. But as he appeared more upset than desirous of listening to confidences, William ended by being quite anxious about him.

"Are you in pain?" he asked.

"Yes, just a little, thanks."

"What is it, my dear fellow?"

"Nothing—it will go away—only a little sickness—I will lie down for a bit."

And, rolling himself in his rug, Spartivento threw himself on the bed, smothering his head with a silk handkerchief, though the day was getting very warm.

William, full of solicitude, covered up his feet and lavished a hundred delicate attentions upon him, asking every few minutes—

"Do you feel better now?"

"Yes, yes; leave me alone. I shall be all right soon," was the commander's invariable reply.

With prolonged whistling and formidable rumbling the train now entered the tunnel. As the entrance on the French side is at an altitude of 3800 feet, while on the Italian side it emerges at a height of 4160 feet, and there is consequently an ascent of 360 feet to be made, that is, about one in a hundred, the trains coming from Modena do not travel very fast, the expresses occupying nearly forty minutes in passing through the tunnel, during which it is impossible to converse for the noise.

So William sat down and waited tranquilly for the end of this short night, thinking all the while of his astounding meeting with Betty. He was giving his mind to this rather than admiring the work of the immense subterranean passage, seven and three-quarter miles in length, the making of which had occupied nine years—from 1861 to 1870—at a cost of seventy-five million francs, and had necessitated the employment of two thousand French and Italian workmen, assisted by gigantic boring machines worked by compressed air. He did not doubt that the enterprise

was one of the grandest and most daring of modern times, leaving far behind the justly celebrated work of the Romans, but he was more occupied in wondering if he was to see all his vexatious complications come to life again, and whether the inexplicable presence of Betty on his track was going to upset his plans altogether.

At length, after an interminable three-quarters-an-hour, they emerged once more into the light. The sun shone again, and the train passed more quickly down the Alpine slopes towards the picturesque Piedmont valleys.

"How do you feel now, old fellow?" asked William, bending over the commander.

"Still very uncomfortable," murmured Spartivento.

"Wait a minute. I have something with me that will do you good, and I will make you an infusion, John, put some water to boil."

The commander groaned, doubtless to indicate that he could have done without such foresight, then he plunged his head again among the rugs and remained motionless. While William, in his character of nurse, was busying himself over his infusion, two or three discreet little taps were heard on the door of communication between the two compartments.

"Don't open it! Don't open it!" cried the commander, sitting up and seeming to regain all his energy in the fear of seeing Betty or Victoria come in.

"Why not?" asked William, astonished. "I know these people very well, and can understand the impatience of one of them so much the better as I should myself have gone to their compartment as soon as we got out of the tunnel."

However, judging that the presence of a stranger might be disagreeable to the commander and aggravate his sufferings, William raised the grey cloth curtain, and half opening the door, said—

"Excuse me, Miss Betty. I will be with you in one minute."

John had now prepared a large cup of the beverage, and William forced the commander, in spite of his resistance, to swallow it nearly boiling.

"But it burns me atrociously," groaned Spartivento, turning very red.

"Come, come," returned the improvised doctor, "it must be drunk hot to have any effect." And he hurried him all he could, being anxious, to tell the truth, to rejoin Miss Betty and have an explanation from her.

"Here I am at last!" he cried, entering the second part of the saloon, inhabited by Miss Betty. "Ah, now, I beseech you, let me know—"

"And they say women are curious," returned Betty, still laughing at William's surprise, in which she thought she could recognise a little vexation.

"Come, surely one has a right to be a little bewildered."

"Oh, well, I will have pity on you." And Miss Betty, with charming ease of manner and little laugh to emphasise the amusing parts of her story, gave her adventures in detail, minute by minute and hour by hour, from the moment the train left the jetty at Havre.

"How dauntless, how foolish, how mad you were!" cried William at each fresh incident in the extraordinary tale.

"No," said Betty, "I wanted to get back, that's all."

"Ah! you are not a competitor to be despised when you have once made up your mind."

"That is necessary, my friend."

Then she recounted her return to Cherbourg, her sleep in the express, and her awakening in that very Gare Saint-Lazare where they had arrived together but a short time before, and her return to the Hotel Bristol at four o'clock in the morning.

"And, finally, I may tell you, that if I have found you again, it is thanks to the faithful bloodhound who never left you."

(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Swiss Letter

Philately in Switzerland

THE number of stamp collectors in Switzerland seems to be on the increase. On the 16th and 17th of July was held at St. Imier the annual meeting of the delegates of the philatelic societies composing the Swiss Philatelic Union, viz. Aaran, Bern, Bâle, Bienne, Insiedeln, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Locle, Uerzern, St. Gall, St. Imier, Winterthur, and Zurich. These represent a total of 577 members, and there are philatelic clubs not belonging to the Union at Grenchen, Geneva, and Tramelan (Neuchâtel).

For the year 1905-6 Lausanne was chosen as headquarters for the Central Committee, and Baron de Moutier and M. F. Hasler were elected official purveyor and detector for the association. The members also had the great pleasure of examining M. E. Hoffmann's celebrated collection of Swiss fiscals, which it is hoped will be exhibited in London next year.

Arrest of A. Champion Bailly

A piece of good news is the fact reported by the *Revue Philatélique Française* that the famous A.

Champion Bailly has been arrested at Nantes for selling forged stamps to collectors at Rochefort.

New Swiss Watermark

A circular has been issued to the Swiss Post Offices informing them that the next printing of the values 20 c. to 1 fr. will be on paper with a new watermark "covering the whole sheet." Will this be a kind of multiple watermark, or are we to expect something like the short-lived Roumanian watermark? Time will show.

A Curious Error

A curious error has just been issued which may be of interest to post card collectors. In the last printing of the 5 c. cards (May, 1905) one of the cards on the sheet is dated "V. 06-4,800,000." If there is no printing in May, 1906, or if the number printed is different, this error will be difficult to obtain.

A. DE R.

P.S.—Since writing the above lines the 30 c. has appeared on the new paper; the watermark is multiple Federal Crosses 15 mm. wide.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Sydney Philatelic Club

Hon. President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

President: A. F. Basset Hull.

Secretary: J. H. Smyth.

Meetings: 88, King Street, Sydney.

THE annual general meeting was held at the Club Room, 88, King Street, Sydney, on Wednesday evening, 19th July, at 8 p.m. There was a large attendance of members, the President, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull, in the chair. Mr. Shepperd, of Beira, East Africa, was present as a visitor. The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

The report of the Committee for the past twelve months was read.

Report of Committee for 1904-5

Your Committee in presenting their Annual Report have extreme pleasure in stating that the past year has been one of unparalleled success. So many events of importance have taken place that only a passing reference can be made to them, but all tended to the justification of the belief that Philately is gaining in popularity, and that the members of the Club show a very interest in the welfare of our hobby.

Eleven ordinary, four special, and fourteen Committee meetings were held, at all of which the attendances were highly satisfactory. There are now sixty-five members on the rolls.

Several rules were altered in accordance with the wishes of the members.

The President, Mr. Basset Hull, delivered a popular lecture, illustrated by lantern views, in St. James' Hall, on 21st September, which was well attended by the general public, and evidently much appreciated by those present.

A new Club Room was secured, giving members the exclusive privilege of its use at any time, and the Committee have endeavoured to encourage visits to it by being present frequently. Donations in money and kind towards furnishing same were so freely

offered that your Committee were able to meet this extra expense without encroaching on the Club funds.

The subject of "Uniform Stamps" received considerable attention. Early in the year a communication was sent to the Postmaster-General giving at his request our opinions on the subject (published in our official organ), and recently that gentleman courteously received and listened to a deputation from the Club in advocacy of our views. Judging by a recent announcement in the daily Press to the effect that "designs have been invited for a uniform stamp," your Committee may congratulate the members on the fact that their efforts appear to have had good results.

In November a syllabus was drawn out which resulted in displays of collections and papers on various subjects being read by members at the subsequent meetings, all of which were interesting and instructive.

Mr. Hagen having resigned the position of Exchange Superintendent, Mr. Waddington was appointed to the position.

Amongst the distinguished visitors who honoured us with their presence were Mr. Rundell (Vice-President Philatelic Society of Victoria), Mr. Peck (Hon. Secretary Philatelic Society of South Australia), Mr. Russell Wilkins, of Brisbane (who brought with him his magnificent collection of Queensland stamps), and Mr. Hausburg, of London.

Extra efforts were made by the Committee to make Mr. Hausburg's stay in Sydney enjoyable. A special reception meeting was held to suit that gentleman's convenience; he and Mrs. Hausburg were entertained to a harbour picnic, which was thoroughly enjoyed by our guests, friends, and the members; and we take this opportunity of thanking those who helped to maintain the prestige of the Club by showing Mr. Hausburg hospitality and placing their collections at his disposal for inspection.

At the March meeting Mr. Dixon (a country member) placed on the table his valuable Australian collection, and in May Mr. White (another country member)

sent his superb collection of South Australians for the edification of those present at that meeting.

The Committee regret to have to record the death of Mr. R. C. Beveridge, who was an enthusiastic philatelist.

Notwithstanding the extraordinary expenditure incurred during the year, the Committee are gratified at being able to present what seems to them a very satisfactory Treasurer's statement; but as expenses are likely to be higher in future than they were in the years preceding 1903-4, they desire to express the hope that members will rally round and assist liberally in meeting such by the introduction of others.

The reports of the Librarian and Exchange Superintendent have the full approval of the Committee. The assets of the Club have been valued at £80 (of which £66 is approximately the value of the library). This is highly creditable, more especially as there are no liabilities.

In recognition of their services in the cause of Australian Philately, Messrs. Hausburg, Castle, Phillips, Bacon, and Hill were elected honorary members, and the Committee are of the opinion that this procedure should be adopted when it is considered desirable.

In conclusion, your Committee are firmly convinced that the transactions of the past year as recorded herein have benefited the members of the Club to a large extent, and they are confident that Philately is making rapid strides, not only in Australia, but throughout the whole world.

The Treasurer's statement was also submitted, and the reports of the Librarian, Exchange Superintendent, and Auditors were read, and all were unanimously adopted.

Election of officers for the ensuing year then took place with the following result:—Hon. President H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; President, Mr. A. F. Basset Hull; Vice-President, Mr. E. D. Van Weenen; Treasurer, Mr. J. J. Witney; Librarian, Mr. C. A. Gilles; Exchange Superintendent, Mr. W. A. Hull; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. H. Smyth; Committee Messrs. Abood, Blumenthal, Hambly, Pettifer, Ridley Smith, and Waddington.

A vote of thanks to the retiring officers was carried by acclamation.

The President acknowledged the compliment, and spoke glowingly of the work done by the Club, and was fully satisfied that it was still capable of much usefulness, and he thanked the members for their continued confidence in re-electing him. Several of the other officers also spoke.

The President, on behalf of the Club, welcomed Mr. Shepperd, and that gentleman thanked the members for the courtesy shown him.

The subject of colour names was referred to, and it was decided that that subject be set down for discussion at the next monthly meeting.

Mr. Hagen, with the consent of Mr. H. L. White, a country member, laid on the table that gentleman's collection of Sydney Views, comprising about 370 specimens, used and unused. Those present were afforded a rare treat, as Mr. White has the majority of his stamps plated according to shade, a task seldom attempted by collectors of Sydney Views. Subsequently it was resolved that a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. White for his kindness.

J. H. SMYTH,

Hon. Secretary.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

The Coming Auctions

We are beginning to get a few hints of the good things that we are to be asked to compete for at the forthcoming auctions. At the end of the month Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper will sell a fine collection of the stamps of Great Britain, in which we are assured the "specimens are in the finest condition."

In the same sale will be included a 6d., blue, surcharged V.R. TRANSVAAL in red, unused, and in mint state, with inverted surcharge. An Irishman would call this an inverted surcharge which was not inverted at all, for it is simply the *tête-bêche* stamp which was upside down which was surcharged, so it is the stamp which was inverted and not the surcharge. We have no evidence, such as a pair, to show that the red surcharge was inverted. However, the stamp is a great rarity, and should fetch a good long price, well up into double figures. The editor of *G.S.W.*, who is a well-known Transvaal specialist, tells me that he has never seen a specimen of the 6d., red surcharge, inverted, mint. On this information I am tempted to go to £5 for it myself, but I suspect some one will cap that with an added nought.

On the 11th instant, Mr. Hadlow will sell a fine wholesale stock of British Colonials.

Auction Commissions

NOT a few of the regular dealers who attend auctions are now laying themselves out for buying on commission for collectors who are not able, or who do not care to attend the auctions. The commission for buying varies, but probably the most fetching is an offer to charge 2s. per lot if purchased below the limit given by the collector, otherwise to make no charge. I believe Mr. Hadlow himself started this method of buying at auctions.

Northern and Southern Nigerias and Lagos

LAST season there was quite a flutter over Northern and Southern Nigerias Queen's Heads, and Southern Nigeria King's Head £1, single CA, and Lagos King's Heads, single CA, and I quite expect the flutter will be continued this season. Already Messrs. Puttick and Simpson announce the inclusion of a few of these scarce stamps in their first sale. The Southern Nigeria King's Head single CA promises to outstrip all the others in price.

Australians

AUSTRALIANS are expected to come very much to the fore this season, for they have been increasing in popularity for some seasons now, and as the Commonwealth issue promises to supersede all other issues before long, collectors are getting anxious about probable rises in price.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

L. S. (South Kensington).—If you write to the Hon. Mr. J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., he will send you particulars as to membership in the Philatelic Society of London. The subscription for town members is two guineas, and the qualifications for membership are the same as for a first-class London Club. You must be proposed and seconded by members and furnish two references.

R. H. F. (Eastleigh).—Your Chinese stamp is a railway stamp, not a postage stamp. Chalk-surfaced papers have a glossy appearance, but can best be distinguished by trying a silver coin on a bit of the plain surface of the margin: if chalk paper, the coin will leave a line like that made by a lead pencil; if ordinary paper, the coin will leave no coloured mark. Granite paper has coloured fibres distinguishable with magnifying-glass.

A. Gibbonsite (London Bridge).—We have not worked out the sum you send us, but we accept your figures and the conclusion that it will take us some seven years to complete our History of the Countries of the World. What then? Would you have us give you imper Nos. of *G.S.W.*, à la Catalogue for a few months, so as to get over the ground right away? Or what do you propose in place of our present one? Your philatelic digestion must be working extra well if you can get through larger doses than we give you for each week, or perhaps you are getting impatient for our simplification of the complexities of Zanzibar. If so, we are afraid you must possess your soul in patience, and meanwhile draw such excellent comfort as you may from the imposing array of accumulating volumes. And when we get Zanzibar, what then? Well, as you say, "by that time there will be a lot of new issues," and we can, therefore, start afresh. At the end of seven years you can then tell us how you like the arrangement, and advise us as to a fresh start.

J. C. (Wishaw).—If by 1d. and $\frac{1}{2}$ d., unused, Queen Victoria Heads, British stamps, you mean our English issues, we can say nothing until we know what issue you refer to. If you mean the last-issued Queen's heads, we fear you will find it best to use them for postage.

Alpha (Sheffield).—The lettering on your Northern Nigerian stamps we take to be a cancellation. Bisected stamps are not generally catalogued. We cannot, therefore, say anything about the value of your olivian.

E. H. (Whiteley Bay).—No additional value is attached to inverted watermarks. Few collectors take any notice of them.

A. S. P. (Crouch Hill).—The perforation of the Serbian so-called Death's-head, 5 paras, gauges $11\frac{1}{2}$. Unused is catalogued at the sum of 1d., and may be had in any quantity at that price. Don't waste your money in such rubbish. Many thanks for your kind wishes for *G.S.W.*

L. G. M. (Hants).—(1) The New South Wales stamps of 1888-97 are of types illustrated, numbers 37 to 42. The stamps described on page 173 are of the new type, numbers 49 to 53, with the exception of the 6d., which is the same type as the older issue; but in this

case the colour has been changed, and no confusion can arise. (2) Many Victorian stamps from the edges and corners of the sheets show vertical or horizontal lines. As these are common to many watermarks it is impossible to say to which issue yours belong. (3) When the price of a fiscal stamp is given used, it means postally used. (4) In our opinion "Specimen" stamps should not be included in a postage stamp collection, except as a makeshift for an expensive stamp. (5) Stanley Gibbons, Limited, are at all times willing to answer any inquiries for any of their clients and to explain any points about which there may be any difficulty.

R. D. C. (Edinburgh).—The variety you notice in the Transvaal "E.R.I.", Halfpenny on 2d., brown, is not worth cataloguing. It is simply caused by the very thin bit of type in the middle of the "H" failing to print.

A Subscriber (Cambridge).—The 10s. and £1, Orange Free State, were not overprinted "V.R.I." for postal purposes. Yours must be fiscals.

R. V.—The stamp inscribed NIEUWE REPUBLIEK, 2d., ZUID AFRIKA, you will find catalogued in Gibbons' Catalogue, Part I., under the head of New Republic, South Africa. It is a stamp issued by the Boers when they annexed a part of Zululand and called it the New Republic of South Africa. This territory was subsequently added to the South African Republic as a new district named "Vrijheid." Your other stamp is a Transvaal stamp, but your description is not sufficient for us to say of what issue or value.

L. J. W. (Southsea).—*Binding G. S. W.* The binding of the covers with the inside pages of *G. S. W.* is a matter for individual choice, but it is a very general practice in technical journals, like *G. S. W.*, where the advertisements are specially devoted to the same subject, to bind covers with all the advertisements and the inside matter together. Some bind the numbers together just as published, others have the covers put at the end. In our opinion, if covers and advertisements are bound up in the volume, they should be bound as published. This is the plan followed in the British Museum Library. You will frequently note people advertising for old journals "complete with covers." And there is no doubt that a volume which includes the covers is more valuable than one which excludes them.

The kind of binding is again a matter of individual choice. Some folks bind all their books gorgeously in half morocco. If you bind in cloth you should certainly get the publishers' covers. They are cheap, good, and most effectively lettered in gold. The stamps need not be included.

When sending your numbers to the bookbinder, be most clear and emphatic in your instructions as to binding covers and advertisements, otherwise the first thing he will do will be to strip off the covers and pitch them into the waste heap.

S. H. B. (Sheffield).—The Tasmanian $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 5d. was chronicled by us in March last (see *G. S. W.*, vol. i. p. 156), and you will find the Fernando Poo was chronicled in the following month (see *G. S. W.*, vol. i. pp. 229 and 235). Both stamps are also to be found in the current catalogues.

R. G. J. (Kilkenny).—*Stamps of Amoy*. These stamps are not included in the Gibbons Catalogue, as they are purely local stamps for use in the Treaty Port of Amoy. They were issued in 1895-6. The values and prices given in Scott's Catalogue are as follows:—

| 1895. No wmk. Perf. 11½. | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---------|
| | | | Unused. |
| ½ c., green | . | . | 4 c. |
| 1 c., rose-red | . | . | 4 c. |
| 2 c., blue | . | . | 6 c. |
| 4 c., brown | . | . | 10 c. |
| 5 c., orange | . | . | 15 c. |
| 1896. Wmk. Chinese Characters. | | | |
| 15 c., black | . | . | 30 c. |
| 20 c., purple | . | . | 40 c. |
| 25 c., lilac-rose | . | . | 50 c. |

T. C. W. (Up Bangor).—We do not know of any philatelic value attaching to old newspaper stamps. They are fiscals only. Penny red stamps of Great Britain with the letters "O.U.S." were used for the Oxford Union Society. They were worth about 1s. The newspaper stamps in Gibbons' Catalogue paid postage, and no other varieties did this.

T. C. M. (London).—See reply to T. C. W. above.

R. B. H. (Dunmanway).—The varieties you note are for the specialist, and would be included as minor varieties, but they have not been accorded catalogue rank. There are many minor varieties in other countries duly noted by the specialist but mercifully omitted from the catalogue. Very many thanks for your kind wishes for *G.S.W.*

R. H. C. (Durban).—The Tasmanian wmk. *TAS* on the whole sheet is always one way, but may often be found inverted; hence your variety.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

SEPTEMBER, 1905

- 18, 19, & 20. Auction: Glendining & Co., 7 Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
- 21 & 22. Auction: Plumridge & Co., 64 Chancery Lane, London.
- 25. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—How to increase the membership, opened by A. Moffatt; Display—British South Africa and Persia.
- 26 & 27. Auction: Puttick & Simpson, 47 Leicester Square.
- 28 & 29. Auction: Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, Strand, London.

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2,000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

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Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 12 16 SEPTEMBER, 1905 Vol. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

by EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Austria



THE geographers describe Austria as embracing the old Hapsburg possessions of the Alps (Lower and Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Cariola, Tyrol, Gorz, Trieste), most of the lands of the old kings of Bohemia (Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia), parts of the former kingdom of Poland (Galicia and Bukovina), and the Venetian Colonies on the east side of the Adriatic (Istria and Dalmatia).

Each of these groups consists of provinces or Crown lands which still bear their old titles, such as kingdom or duchy. Each has its governor and its own provincial diet or parliament, and they are all represented together in the Austrian Parliament, partly by popular election and partly by the election of privileged classes.

The population in 1900 was 26,107,304. Vienna, the capital, on the Danube, has a population of 1,662,269.

Its Philatelic History

The philatelic history of Austria begins with 1850. The first issue was a neat presentation of the Arms of Austria, with its double-headed eagle, on a shield surmounted by the Imperial Crown. The second issue in 1858 had for its design an embossed beardless profile of the Emperor turned to the left. In 1861 followed an embossed head turned to the right; in 1863 an oval with Arms embossed; in 1867 embossed stamps were abandoned in favour of the cheaper method of ordinary surface-printing. The head of the Emperor to right, with what is expressively termed moustache and "mutton chop" whiskers, was enclosed in a circle. In 1883 the portrait design gave place to an Arms type with central tablet of value; this was followed in 1890 by another portrait series, which, with varying framework, has been continued up to date.

From 1850 to 1899 the currency was expressed in kreuzers and gulden, which in 1899 was changed to heller and krona.

1850. Five values. Arms of Austria on a shield surmounted by the Imperial Crown. As will be seen from our list, these grand old first issues may still be had for a few pence. Imperforate.



| | Imperforate. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|--------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 kr., yellow | . . . 40 0 | 0 6 | |
| 2 „ black | . . . 15 0 | 0 3 | |
| 3 „ red | . . . 10 0 | 0 1 | |
| 6 „ brown | . . . 10 0 | 0 2 | |
| 9 „ blue | . . . 35 0 | 0 1 | |

1858-9. Five values. Design, embossed profile of Emperor to left. In 1859 the 3 kr. stamp was changed in colour from black to green. Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 kr., yellow | . . . 30 0 | 0 6 | |
| 3 „ black | . . . 25 0 | 2 6 | |
| 3 „ green | . . . 10 0 | 2 6 | |
| 5 „ red | . . . 20 0 | 0 1 | |
| 10 „ brown | . . . 50 0 | 0 2 | |
| 15 „ blue | . . . 60 0 | 0 1 | |

1861. Five values. Design, embossed profile of Emperor to right in an oval Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 kr., yellow | . . . 3 6 | 0 4 | |
| 3 „ green | . . . 3 0 | 0 4 | |
| 5 „ red | . . . 3 6 | 0 1 | |
| 10 „ brown | . . . 10 0 | 0 1 | |
| 15 „ blue | . . . 10 0 | 0 1 | |

1863. Five values. Design, Arms embossed and enclosed in an oval band. Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 kr., yellow | . . . 1 0 | 0 2 | |
| 3 „ green | . . . 1 6 | 0 4 | |
| 5 „ rose | . . . 1 0 | 0 1 | |
| 10 „ blue | . . . 2 6 | 0 1 | |
| 15 „ brown | . . . 2 6 | 0 1 | |

1867. Seven values. Design, head of Emperor to right, with side whiskers and moustache. For the low values up to 25 kr. the stamps were of the ordinary size, but for the 50 kr. a larger and more elaborate design was provided. Perforated.



Perf. Unused. Used.

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 kr., yellow | . | . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 „ green | . | . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 „ rose | . | . | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 „ blue | . | . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 15 „ brown | . | . | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| 25 „ lilac | . | . | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 50 „ brown | . | . | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

1883. Six values. Design, a return to the Arms type, with a tablet of value in the centre. The inscription over the Arms and the numeral of value on the tablet were printed in black. Perforated.



Perf. Unused. Used.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 kr., brown | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 „ green | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 „ rose | . | . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 „ blue | . | . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 20 „ greenish grey | . | . | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| 50 „ mauve | . | . | 2 | 6 | 0 | 8 |

1890-1. A long series of thirteen values. Design, head of Emperor to left for the kreuzer values, and to right in long rectangular size for the gulden values. In the kreuzer values the numerals in the corners were printed in black. Perforated.



Perf. Unused. Used.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 kr., slate | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 „ brown | . | . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 „ green | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 „ rose-carmine | . | . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 10 „ blue | . | . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| 12 „ lake | . | . | 0 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| 15 „ mauve | . | . | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------------|---|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 20 kr., olive | . | 2 | 0 |
| 24 „ grey-blue | . | 1 | 3 |
| 30 „ brown | . | 1 | 6 |
| 50 „ mauve | . | 2 | 6 |
| 1 g., deep blue | . | 5 | 0 |
| 2 g., carmine | . | 7 | 6 |

1891. Four values. Design, same head of Emperor to left, but enclosed in an octagonal frame with numerals of value printed in black on uncoloured corner tablets. This change in the design is said to have been necessitated by the circulation of forgeries of those values of the previous issue. Perforated.



Perf. Unused. Used.

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20 kr., green | . | . | 0 | 9 | 0 | 1 |
| 24 „ dull blue | . | . | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 30 „ brown | . | . | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 50 „ mauve | . | . | 1 | 9 | 0 | 6 |

1896. Two gulden values. Colours changed. Design as in 1890-1 series. Perforated.

Perf. Unused. Used.

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 gulden, lilac | . | . | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 2 „ green | . | . | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

1899-1902. Sixteen values. Design, head of Emperor to left in various frames. Currency changed from kreuzer and gulden to heller and krona.



Perf. Unused. Used.

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 h., lilac | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 h., grey | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 h., brown | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 h., deep green | . | . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 h., orange | . | . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |



| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 10 h., rose | . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 20 h., brown | . | 0 5 | 0 2 |
| 25 h., ultramarine | . | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 30 h., mauve | . | 0 5 | 0 1 |



| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| 35 h., bright green | . | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 40 h., pale green | . | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 50 h., pale blue | . | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 60 h., yellow-brown | . | 1 3 | 0 1 |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| 1 kron, rose | . | 1 6 | 0 3 |
| 2 „ lavender | . | 2 6 | 0 2 |
| 4 „ pale green | . | 6 0 | 0 6 |

1904. Fourteen values. Designs as before, but with numerals of values altered as illustrated. On values 1 h. to 6 h. the figures are in the colours of the stamps on a white ground; on 10 h. to 30 h. figures are in black on a plain white ground; on 35 h. to 60 h. figures are in white on ground of the same colour as the stamps. Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 h., purple | . | 0 1 | — |
| 2 h., violet-black | . | 0 1 | — |
| 3 h., pale brown | . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 h., deep green | . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 6 h., orange | . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 h., rose | . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 20 h., brown | . | 0 3 | 0 1 |
| 25 h., ultramarine | . | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 30 h., mauve | . | 0 5 | — |
| 35 h., bright green | . | 0 6 | — |
| 40 h., purple | . | 0 7 | — |
| 50 h., pale blue | . | 0 8 | — |
| 60 h., yellow-brown | . | 0 9 | — |
| 72 h., lilac-rose | . | 1 0 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

WATERMARKS

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

THE beginner, who has arrived at the stage when the multitude of designs and the innumerable shades of colour which distinguish stamps the one from the other cease to absorb the whole of his attention, turns his thoughts to other marks of difference. Generally his interest centres on the identification of watermarks. There is an element of fascination in hunting for something which is present, but which sometimes escapes the eye for a long time, until, at last, it is seen, and you wonder why you did not see it before. There is also the financial aspect to consider, for stamps apparently identical may differ very much

in value according to the nature of the watermark, or, in some cases, according to the presence or absence of a watermark. But we must not be in too great a hurry. What is a watermark? How is it produced? A watermark is a design, either heraldic or geometrical or of written characters, which is impressed in the paper, during the process of its manufacture, by means of wire shapes.

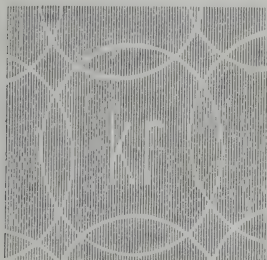
1. This design may be so large that its details are distributed over the whole sheet of stamps. In such case each stamp on the sheet, when detached from the rest, exhibits only a small portion of the watermark. A notable example of

this is seen in the first issue of India under the regime of the Honourable East India Company. The Arms of India occupy the central portion of the sheet. The inscription on the scroll reads, "Auspicio Regis et Senatus Anglie," which, being interpreted, means, "Under the auspices of the King and the Government of England." An illustration is appended.



In 1881, the stamps of Hungary appeared on paper with a watermark of interlacing circles with the initials KL in the centre of each circle.

HUNGARY.



The Queensland issue of 1866 presents the written watermark, "Queensland Postage Stamps," in which the script characters are so arranged that a single stamp only shows a portion of one or two letters.

QUEENSLAND.

QUEENSLAND
POSTAGE POSTAGE
STAMPS STAMPS

1866.

The sheets of the first issue of Tuscany were watermarked with twelve coronets in four rows of three, separated by single vertical lines. Above each row of three

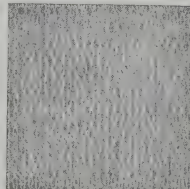
coronets were three horizontal lines and below were two horizontal lines. Sheets thus watermarked were to be used only in Tuscany and for dispatch to the Lombardo-Venetian States.

TUSCANY.



1851-2.

In 1853 the watermark was changed, but the design remained the same as in the former issue. The new watermark consisted of rows of horizontal wavy curves placed so as to form loops. The inscription II E R. R. POSTE TOSCANE stretched diagonally from the left lower to the right upper corner of the sheet, which contained fifteen rows of sixteen stamps each.



1853.

In the stamps of Naples one finds the fleur-de-lis as a watermark occupying the space of several stamps and repeated in the sheet.

So much for watermarks of large design.

2. We come now to speak of watermarks which are designed in such a way that each stamp on the sheet may have its own complete unmutated watermark. In the case of English stamps the wire shapes which produce the watermark take the form of a King's Crown. This Crown has seen three changes in shape. It appeared in 1840 as a Small Crown. In 1854 the Large Crown became the watermark. This in turn was superseded by the Imperial Crown of 1880, generally known as "Crown 1880," which has remained the watermark of English stamps for all values from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1s. for twenty-five years.

*Small Crown.**Large Crown.**Imperial Crown.*

Other forms of Crowns as watermarks may be seen in the issues of Denmark, Italy, and Sweden. In many of our colonies the watermark has taken the form of a Crown and CC, signifying "Crown Colonies," or a Crown and CA denoting "Crown Agents for the Colonies." This Crown and CA occurs in two sizes. The first is similar in size to the Crown CC. The second is twice as large. It is printed sideways in the sheet, and requires a horizontal pair of stamps to show the whole watermark.

The change from CC to CA was made about the year 1882, because "Crown Colonies" was not the correct official title of many British possessions where the "Crown CC" watermark was in use.

(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

THE 12 c. BRITISH GUIANA

By S. G. COLLINS

MR. CHARLES GILMORE, philatelic dealer and expert, regarded his client critically and curiously through his gold-rimmed glasses.

She was a little mite of about twelve summers, with a pair of large blue eyes and an abundance of curly brown hair, and she seemed ill at ease as she sat, nervous and fidgety, on the edge of a chair in the stamp dealer's private room. Her clothes were old and shabby, but bore evidence of careful mending and frequent repairing. Her general appearance was neat; still, the faded frock and patched little shoes spoke eloquently of genteel poverty—poverty that is none the less grinding or sordid because it carries with it unmistakable indication of better days and prosperous times.

"Where did you get this, little girl?" asked Mr. Gilmore, pointing, as he spoke, to a stamp that lay on his office table, and which he had been carefully studying through a magnifying-glass. It was a British Guiana, 1850, 12 c., blue, in perfect condition.

"Please, sir, mother told me to bring it to you and to ask you to give what you thought was a fair price for it. She thought it would be worth about five shillings."

She spoke shyly and mechanically, as if repeating a frequently rehearsed lesson. Her message had evidently been delivered in the words it had been given to her.

The dealer was silent. He seemed lost in reflection, and his silence served to increase the nervousness of his client. He was thinking of the time when he had seen a stamp similar in every detail to the one now lying on the table before him. He remembered the peculiar stamping of the postmark, and the reflection carried him back over many years of life to the time when he was a boy. It could not possibly be that this stamp was the same stamp that came back to remembrance now after all these years. And yet it was possible!

"Has your mother any more stamps?" he asked.

"Yes, sir; she has father's collection, which he collected when he was a boy."

"Ah, and where does mother live? Is your house far from here?"

"No, sir, not very far, but she told me not to tell you where we lived. Will you give me five shillings for that stamp, sir?"

"No, I should like to see your mother. Come, do not be afraid; you must take me to her."

They left the office together.

They traversed several of the side streets that a few years ago emerged off the Strand, but which are now being slowly demolished, and giving place to wide thoroughfares and more pretentious buildings. Pausing at a house in a narrow alley which had nothing to distinguish it in dirt and squalor from others through which they had passed, the little girl knocked, saying, "This is where we live, sir."

The door was opened by a woman whose face bore signs of a frequently indulged fondness for gin, and they climbed up a flight of narrow, dirty stairs until they reached a large, desolate-looking room, barely furnished.

"Mother, I have brought the stamp dealer to see you," said the girl, as she passed inside, Gilmore following.

"Good afternoon," said he as he entered. "I have come to see you about this stamp, Mrs. —"

"My name is Brown—Mrs. Brown," replied the girl's mother, as she came forward to receive her visitor. "Is there anything wrong?" she asked apprehensively, and to Gilmore both her features and voice seemed strangely familiar.

She was a slim, tall woman of about thirty-five, with a careworn, harassed expression, the inevitable indication of a hard life lived through many joyless years. She was neatly dressed in a rusty black gown which had evidently, long ago, seen better days.

"No," said Gilmore, "there is nothing wrong, but I am particularly interested in this stamp," producing it, as he spoke, from his card-case, where he had put it on leaving the office. "I only remember having seen one exactly similar to it, and that was many years ago. I understand your husband was a collector. Would it be troubling you too much to show me his collection?"

"I will show it to you with pleasure," replied Mrs. Brown, "but I cannot sell any more of the stamps it contains."

Producing a large, battered album, much the worse for wear, from a cupboard, she placed it on the table before Gilmore, and drew up one of the rickety chairs.

"Please be seated," she said simply. "I feel I owe you an apology. When I told you I would not sell any of the other stamps, I did not mean that you would

take advantage of my ignorance of their value, but—but—"—and her voice failed her—"Jack made me promise I would not sell any of his stamps for at least five years after his death. I would not be selling this one now were it not that circumstances—cruel necessity—compels me to do so. I have avoided taking this step for as long as I could, but now—this—this forces me to it." She indicated the bare, cheerless room with a despairing gesture. "I feel sure Jack would forgive me did he know the necessity which drives me to break the promise I made to him."

Gilmore was silent and apparently lost in reverie. He had opened the book at the title-page, and his eyes had a far-away look as they rested on the inscription on the leaf:—

"JACK GILMORE,

ADELAIDE,

SOUTH AUSTRALIA."

The words were in a large, schoolboy hand, and had evidently been written many years ago, for the ink was very faded.

He pulled himself together with a start, his eyes still fixed on the words which seemed to rivet his attention.

"Was your husband ever in Australia, Mrs. Brown?" he asked.

"Yes; both my husband and myself are Colonials, but we have been in England now for nearly fourteen years."

"Is this your husband's name?" he asked, pointing, as he spoke, to the title-page before him.

"Yes—no," replied Mrs. Brown in a nervous tone. Her voice was shaking with ill-concealed emotion, and Gilmore felt a strange compassion for her as he saw her agitation.

"I would not ask you these questions," he said gently, "but I once had a brother called Jack Gilmore, and it was in his collection that I last saw a stamp similar to the one your little girl brought me to-day. I wonder if by any chance it could be the same Jack Gilmore that I knew! I have not seen Jack now for quite fourteen years, and have been trying to find him ever since I have been in England."

Mrs. Brown's nervousness seemed to increase. Her lips moved tremulously, and she tried vainly to conceal her agitation.

"Is your name Charlie?" she asked, the words coming from her brokenly and in a low tone that was almost a whisper.

"Yes—and I was born in Australia," was the reply.

"Surely you are not Maggie—Maggie May, whom Jack married?"

He paused for a reply.

"My name was Maggie May," she replied. "I was Maggie May many years ago—it seems centuries ago, so much has happened since then."

"Then you must be Jack's wife," said Gilmore; "but why do you call yourself Mrs. Brown?"

"It was Jack's wish when we left Australia. After Jack's father turned him adrift for having married me, he swore he would not bear the name of Gilmore any longer. We came to England, and we have lived here ever since under the name I now bear. Oh, it has been a hard struggle! Jack found it difficult to get any work for a long time, and even when he did find employment, his earnings were hardly enough to feed and clothe us. Poor Jack, he had a hard fight for it. He was never very strong, and hard work in the open and exposure to the weather brought on inflammation of the lungs. He did his best to keep up, but I could see he was failing. He had a little money put by, which he would never spend. I think he must have known that the end would soon come, and determined to keep the money so that I could use it after he died. It was all over in a week. The doctors said they were surprised he had lasted so long. Poor, poor, old Jack! Though we were poor, we were very happy.

"He often recalled those cruel words of his father's when he told him that in marrying a woman beyond his station in life, he was courting misery. 'Maggie,' he used to say, 'those words have not come true, have they? We have always been happy, haven't we, little woman?' They were hard, cruel words, as cruel as the man who uttered them. I shall never forgive Jack's father for being so unkind to Jack."

"Maggie, Maggie," broke in Gilmore, "don't be hard on the poor old dad. He was always sorry for having driven Jack away. He came to England and

spent years trying to trace him, but Jack seemed to have disappeared. He became a changed man after Jack—his eldest son—went away. Silent and morose, he seemed filled with a remorse that nothing would remove. When he was dying—his was a very painful death, Maggie—he kept calling for Jack. He was delirious for hours at a time, and his mind wandered back to the time when Jack was with him. He was always fond of Jack, much more fond of him than he was of me. When the end came, he called me to his bedside and said, 'Charlie, I want you to find Jack. Tell him how I have suffered since I sent him away, and ask him to forgive his old dad.' Maggie, surely you will forgive the heart-broken old man!"

She was crying quietly. The reaction had come and with it the remembrance of all that her husband had suffered. Her thoughts were back again in the past, and she scarcely heeded Gilmore's words as he proceeded—

"He told me also that when I had found Jack I was to ask him to bury all that had passed and to accept the five thousand pounds which he left him. A few months earlier I should have been in time and Jack would have been saved. But there, I suppose it had to be. Come now, Maggie; I have delivered the old dad's message, and I ask you to do as he wanted you to do, as I am sure Jack would have done had he lived."

"Yes," said Mrs. Brown brokenly, "I forgive him, as Jack would have forgiven him had he lived. He never bore malice and was always generous and forgiving."

"Of course," said Gilmore, "this meeting of ours will make a change in your life. I will invest this money for you, and meantime you must let me be your banker," producing his pocket-book and laying four five-pound notes on the table. "You must leave this place and give the children and yourself every comfort. Try to forget the past and all its misery, and look forward to a brighter and happier future.

"As for the little 12 c. Guiana that has brought us together, we must replace that in its old place in Jack's collection."

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Cancellations

MAJOR EVANS in the *Monthly Journal* discusses a very knotty subject, to wit, the value of cancellations. As the general collector and the young collector are the largest collectors of cancelled, otherwise *used*, stamps, the readers of *G. S. W.* will be interested in what he says:—

We have ventured on previous occasions to raise a gentle protest against the theory that the nature of an obliteration should make any very essential difference in the interest or value of the stamp to which it is applied. We would divide obliterations into two great classes only: light and heavy; those that are only just sufficient to cancel the stamp, without destroying its interest as a specimen, and those which so deface and disfigure it as to render it useless for purposes of study. Between these two extremes there are of course innumerable gradations, and the desirability of the specimen will vary accordingly. Strictly speaking, stamps obliterated with the word SPECIMEN or CANCELLED would come into the more desirable class, and so in many cases would stamps cancelled in pen and ink, but there is a prejudice against all three of these obliterations. The first two have been applied at various times to impressions of doubtful nature, various varieties, special printings, reprints, etc., but where the stamps bearing them are portions of lots that were actually issued for use, they should be at least on a par with copies postmarked to order. Pen-and-ink cancellation is considered generally to imply fiscal use, but if the stamp is a postage stamp the manner of its use cannot alter its nature. For instance, a business man buys two penny stamps at the post office, one of them he uses in receipting a bill, the other he puts on the envelope returning the receipted bill to his customer. What difference can there be between the two stamps? A private person cannot alter the nature of Government stamps, although he may be permitted to use them in different ways.

Cancelled in Pen and Ink

I recollect that in the early days of stamps an appreciable proportion of those prepaying postage was cancelled with pen and ink. I remember that in the sixties, when I regularly received Chilean stamps by each month's mail, most of them were cancelled with pen and ink, two or three strokes or a couple of dashes crossed. I remember also that in the village in which I then rusticated the local postmistress regularly cancelled with pen and ink the stamps on letters posted in her letter-box for delivery in the village, and if she caught sight of any stamp on the inward mails that had escaped cancellation, she would cancel it with her pen and ink. Later on, I believe, an order must have been circulated requiring the dating stamp to be used for cancelling.

Fiscal v. Postal Cancellations

But Major Evans's remarks beg the question as to the separation of fiscal and postal cancellations. Of course, as he says, a cancellation cannot alter the nature of a stamp, but it can indicate its use, and the stamp collector, in my humble opinion, very rightly insists upon postal cancellations on the used stamps which he places in his collections. There are, of course, cases in which it is next to impossible to insist upon a distinct postal cancellation; when, for instance, the same dating stamp is used for cancelling Telegraph stamps. But, generally speaking, the well-informed dealer can and, so far as possible, does reject all but postal cancellations.

Chalk-surfaced Paper

The exciting topic of the hour is the news that in future our De la Rue colonial stamps, and probably our English stamps before long, will be all printed on chalk-surfaced paper.

Chalk-surfaced paper is an additional safeguard against the fraudulent cleaning of stamps, and it also yields better results than ordinary paper from the printing point of view. It is a paper which is coated with a preparation of chalk, and then highly rolled so as to give it a glazed appearance. This surface is so sensitive that if wetted, as, for instance, to soak off the back of an envelope, portions of the design will easily rub off. Hence in the near future the collection of fine used copies will be rendered much more difficult.

Now as to the collectability of this chalk-surfaced paper as a variety, I am glad to learn from the Editor of *G. S. W.* that it is not intended to catalogue it in this weekly of ours. It is essentially a specialist's variety.

Already in Use

Chalk-surfaced paper has long been in use in some of our colonies and by some foreign countries. Portugal has used it since 1893; Egypt since 1902; and New South Wales current stamps have been printed on it since 1902. And a great many stamps are printed on chalk-surfaced paper that have escaped recognition.

The Fate of Surcharges

Our friends across the pond, or at least a few of them, have a bee in their bonnet that they cannot get rid of over the question of surcharges. One American stamp paper that lies before me seriously asks, "What is to be the fate of surcharges? Will they continue to be collected?"

Can't you fancy a collector of British East Africa, British Bechuanaland, Zululand, Transvaal, Turks Islands, etc., asking such a crank what on earth the fellow means? This same authority tells us that "watermarks are eschewed by the great majority"! But be it noted "our own colonial possessions, the Philippines, Guam, etc.," are to be excepted.

That Programme!

As I anticipated, that blessed programme of the forthcoming International Philatelic Exhibition is not yet in evidence, nor can I learn of any notice having yet been issued calling the General Committee together to approve of its publication. If the Juniors had been managing this business, they would have had the whole of the stamp world discussing its features

long since. However, I am prepared to take 2 to 1 that it will be out before Christmas.

The Minor Variety

The minor variety is having a bad time of it. Says one writer in an American periodical, "The minor variety is slowly being reduced to its deserved position of comparative unimportance." Ah! Perhaps that writer is not acquainted with Ewen and Hawkins, who have been heaving and hawking minor varieties galore. So far from the minor variety being ousted from its position, I do not remember a time when it was more in evidence. Of course, in *G. S. W.* we ignore it, for we cater only for the general collector and the beginner.

Then we are told that "the minor variety, if left alone, would bespeak for itself only a modest share of favour." One would imagine the poor minor variety was an aggressive sort of animal, "to be left alone." We shall probably be advised next to scratch out the words, "Beware of the dog," and post up in their stead "Beware of the minor variety."

THAT BUTCHER-BOY!

By W. E. IMESON

A N awful type of butcher-boy
I once tried, to my loss,
To interest in stamps—to wean
The lad from pitch-and-toss,
From pitch-and-toss to manslaughter
That lad was bound to go:
Stamps could not save, but might, at least,
His progress render slow.

An album, with a hundred stamps—
To suit the lad's crude taste—
I bought for "Bill" (a higher grade
Of stamps had proved a waste).
The countries, tho', he jumbled so
'Twas hard a stamp to find,
The hinging of that little "lot"
Well-nigh unhinged his mind.

I fathered that collection, but
I fathomed not Bill's mood,
His heart indeed was like a stone,
His head—a block of wood.
For packets many a "bob" from me
Had Bill—and now he brags
That all those "bobs" in packets went—
Of five-a-penny "fags"!

Free education seems indeed
A farce—yes, that's a fact—
For savages like Bill Smith show
How futile is the Act.
Is the curriculum at fault?
Should we the system blame?
For even wild, sixth-standard boys
Stamps ought, at least, to tame.

Yes, butcher-boys are slaves to vice,
Tho' education's free:
One day, with brutal frankness, Bill
Smith Junior said to me:
"Them King's an' Queen's 'eads wot you tal'
About's all werry fine,
But, guv'nor, straight, it ain't no use—
Sheep's 'eads is more my line!"

Why did I try to civilize
A creature so perverse?
I thought that from a sow's ear I
(Poor fool!) could make a purse.
The leopard cannot change his spots,
Gold cannot come from dross,
In life Bill's no ambition—save
To win at pitch-and-toss.

With shameless glee he showed me once
A coin that he'd just "swapped"
For half his stamps—it proved he'd not
The gambling habit dropped.
The numismatic William said:
"Stamps, arter all, is rot;
This double-headed penny 'ere's
Wuth all the bloomin' lot!"

At last I asked to see Bill's book,
But did not get a peep
(A lad will stick at nothing who's
Been used to sticking sheep).
He'd sold it, and he coolly said:
"Some 'ready' raise I must,
Bank 'oliday's a comin' and—
I'm goin' on the bust!"

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Colonial Stamp Paper.—We quote the following announcement from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*. It has been expected for some weeks.

"In 1901 New South Wales introduced a new kind of paper for printing its postage stamps. It is known by stamp collectors as 'chalk-surfaced' or 'chalky' paper, and stamps printed on it have a much finer appearance. But hitherto its use has been limited to the stamps of New South Wales and certain others printed at the Government Printing Office at Sydney notably the Australian Commonwealth Postage Due series). The Crown Agents have now adopted it for the stamps of the Crown Colonies.

"Stamps printed on the present Crown CC or Crown CA paper can be cleaned, if the stamps are printed in any other colour than lilac and green and the cancellation is not of specially prepared ink. It consequently follows that all stamps intended for revenue as well as postal use—that is to say, all which are likely to have a pen cancellation—must be printed wholly or partly in green or lilac. This gives the stamps a very similar appearance and renders them less easy to distinguish. The Postal Union recommendation that $\frac{3}{4}$ d. stamps should be green, 1d. stamps red, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps blue, can also only partially be carried out, these colours being limited to the name and value of the stamps in the case of several colonies. There is therefore a choice of two evils in connection with the present paper; either there must be a risk of cleaning or the stamps must be all similar in colour. The disadvantages of this latter system are considerable, and when it was tried in England in 1884, it led to many mistakes and was quickly abandoned.

"The chalk-surfaced paper is, however, practically uncleanable, and has the additional advantage that stamps printed on it have a much finer appearance. The disadvantages are that it is a little more expensive and that it is unsuitable for printing line-engraved stamps, such as those of the Falkland and Turks Islands.

"There is thus a delightful prospect in store for the stamp collector! The Crown Agents will have to keep both stocks of multiple Crown CA paper in stock, unless they obtain new plates for printing the Falkland Islands and other similar stamps. What if the two stocks should get mixed? Or first printings can be on the old paper and later printings on the new!

"We should be inclined to think that the new paper will at first only be brought into use for those colonies which specially ask for it, and these are likely to be the 'Postage and Revenue' colonies. The first stamps on the new paper are to hand from Sierra Leone, but rumour states that the change has also been made in Southern Nigeria, Northern Nigeria, and Hong Kong. As regards the latter two places we should imagine a mistake has been made. The last consignment of Hong Kong stamps (No. 'H') was due to be sent out in July, 1905, and sufficient time has hardly elapsed for us to hear if the new paper was made use of. The 'G' consignment sent out to Hong Kong in January was on the old paper."

[It is not our intention to treat chalk-surfaced paper as a collectable variety for the young collector, and we shall not, therefore, further notice the variety.—Ed. G. S. W.]

Bechuanaland.—*Ewen's Weekly* says: "It would seem that this protectorate is going to discontinue its 'Postage and Revenue' series as regards the high

values. We shall not therefore get 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., £1, and £5 King's Head stamps. We understand from the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* that the obsolete 2s. 6d. and £1 of the Queen's Head stamps have been replaced by the handsome King's Head Transvaal Revenue stamps of the same values overprinted 'Bechuanaland Protectorate' in black in two lines. Both are reported to have been seen used postally."

Cyprus.—In *Ewen's Weekly* for August 19th it is stated that "the now famous 9 piastre Cyprus" (referring, no doubt, to the variety with single CA) "was never issued to the public." This, replies Major Evans in the *Monthly Journal*, "is quite a mistake. Our publishers received a few of these stamps and had them on sale at 1s. 6d. each, used, before it was realized that they were scarce. A copy in their possession, on a portion of the original envelope, is clearly dated 'May 30th, '04.' From inquiries we have made, we gather that between sixty and ninety of these stamps were used before the balance of the stock was bought up by a dealer. The stamp in a used condition is undoubtedly much scarcer than unused, which probably accounts for Mr. Ewen never having met with a copy."

Dutch Indies.—*Provisional.*—We are indebted to Mr. C. Grenier for an early copy of a new provisional just issued. It consists of a surcharge of "10 cent." in bold lower-case letters, printed diagonally from lower left to right upper corner, with full stop after the word "cent." The stamp surcharged is the current 20 cent, greenish slate.

Provisional.

"10 cent." on 20 c., greenish slate.

Japan.—On p. 138 we chronicled the issue of a 3 sen value issued at Tokio in commemoration of the taking over by Japan of the Korean postal service. We now quote from the *Monthly Journal* the following official letter relating to the issue:—

"YOKOHAMA, JULY 27th, 1905.

"SIR,—I have the honour to ask you to be so kind as to acquaint the public with the following:—

"A three Sen postage stamp for the Commemoration of the amalgamation of the Postal, Telegraphic, and Telephonic Services in Japan and Korea will be on sale from the 1st July next at the 1st and 2nd Class Post Offices in Japan or the Post Offices and postal agencies in Korea, as well as at the Japanese Post Offices in China, but not at the 3rd Class Post Offices in Japan. It may be used only for the local mail deliverable in Japan and Korea or the Japanese Post Offices in China, and not for the mail matter intended for abroad."

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient Servant,

"(Signed) T. AONUMA,

"Superintendent of Foreign Mails."

Sierra Leone.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says there has been a reissue of Queen's Heads here. "Most of the King's Head stamps with single watermark were suddenly withdrawn from sale or bought up, and as there was only a small supply of King's Head stamps with multiple watermark on hand, the Queen's Head stamps were reissued. The correspondence of many large firms (unconnected with Philately) has for the last few mails uniformly been stamped with Queen's Head stamps."

MISCELLANEOUS

A Vanished Treasure

ONE of our travellers used to visit the whole of Spain twice a year. That was a mine of exceptional richness to be worked, so I begged this traveller to insist, in the case of all the customers visited by him, that they would promise to overhaul their old letters and turn out their drawers and cupboards, just to see if they could find some private letters bearing stamps, for the latter might have been rare. This being asked as a personal favour, all, or nearly all of them, grumbling more or less, gave him their tribute. I had drawn the special attention of my traveller to the "bear" stamps of Madrid, 1 and 3 cuartos, bronze. These were still some of the desirables of those days. One did not say much about the other Spanish stamps—little was known of them; but the "bear" was popular as well as rare, and thus it was one of the things most wanted by the public.

It appears that, after a great deal of trouble, he had managed to get together a nice little lot of these famous "bears," as also a certain number of other stamps of various values and issues, among them those with values in reales, including perhaps the Dos Reales of 1851-3, which I had specially recommended to him; in short, he had made a splendid harvest, which he was happy and proud to bring back to me. But, here below, luck is everything; at the moment of coming to me with his hands full, he perceived with despair that his hands were empty; the envelope containing the stamps, brought together with so much trouble, had disappeared. Had he forgotten it, left it behind, or had it been stolen? He could never discover, and no trace of it was ever found. As soon as he found out the loss of the envelope on reaching Paris, he wrote at once to the hotel where he had stayed last, but that was only lost labour, as might have been expected. No one had found anything, no one knew anything. There remained to my poor friend nothing but a few stamps, about half a dozen, among which, saved from the wreck, was a 1 cuarto "bear" of Madrid, which had been picked up at the last moment.

Some time passed before he and I were able to console ourselves (especially myself) for this irreparable loss: the sources from which he had obtained them were then dried up.

To alleviate somewhat the pain caused by the loss of that little fortune, I had a good photograph made of the 1 cuarto "bear," the only copy that remained to me, and I sold a considerable number of the photographs at 50 centimes each. But that was a feeble compensation.

Pierre Mahé in the "Monthly Journal."

Public Pigeon Post

NEXT month, for the first time on record, the public will have an opportunity of sending messages by naval wireless telegraphy and naval pigeon post.

The sailors at Portsmouth are arranging to hold a tournament during the week of the Trafalgar Centenary, and in connexion with this, wireless telegraphic communication will be established with Poldhu. It is also proposed to allow the public to send by pigeon post messages for transmission by wireless telegraphy from different places.

Daily Mail, Sept., 1905.

Letters of Nations

THE Postal Union has just issued a return for 1904, which gives some interesting figures as to international postage. The United States sends most letters—4109 millions during the year. Great Britain follows with 2597 millions, and Germany with 1648 millions. France sends 844 millions, and no other

country reaches 500 millions. The use of post cards has enormously increased. The German Empire heads the list with 1161 millions posted during the year. The United States comes second with 775 millions.

Tit-Bits

Chalk-Surfaced Paper

So the news has leaked out at last, despite attempts which have been made to keep it back as long as possible. Our colonial stamps, and in probability our own stamps of Great Britain, are to be printed in future on chalk-surfaced paper.

This means that the specialist will have to get a fresh set all round of those colonies whose stamps are printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co.

But the young collector and the general collector may congratulate themselves that there is no need whatever for them to take any notice of such a change for chalk-paper is purely a specialist variety.

A Curious Letter

THE postmaster at Chicago the other day received a letter from two ladies in a small town in Michigan that breaks the record as a freak communication in the realm of stampdom. The letter was in reply to a postal card from the Chicago postmaster asking the Michigan ladies to forward one cent each to supply the deficiency in postage on a parcel addressed to each of them. Their letter was as follows:—

"My Dear Mr. Postmaster—Thank you so kind for being so kind as to kindly say you would forward our mail if we sent a 1 sent stamp each. We haint got no 1 sent stamp & cant get none nohow not haven't horse and liven 6 mi from the village & feelen real poorly with the agur and rumatiz so we thot you would be so kind as to cut the two sent stamp in to we woodnt bother you only we are widders & hair got no men to do nothing for us dear Mr. Coyne it is so kind of you to take such an interest in us as to tell us about those parcels & we will allus think kindly of you. Your umball serfants.

"P.S.—Oh Mr. Coyne, please don't tell any one we wrote to you because we are veray respectable."

The postmaster was rather put to it to figure out just how it would be a reflection upon the respectability of the ladies to write to him, but he overlooked that phase of the matter and forwarded the parcels.

Metropolitan Philatelist, U.S.

James Chalmers v. Rowland Hill

AS some non-philatelic journals have recently re-started the circulation of some long-exploded myths as to James Chalmers having been the originator of the adhesive stamp, it may be well to republish the following authoritative statement by Judge Philbrick, who, as President of the Philatelic Society of London, in May, 1890, wrote as follows to the *Standard* newspaper:—

"The London Society some years ago investigated the whole subject, and after a long and careful inquiry and consideration of the original documents, unanimously resolved that the claims put forward by Mr. Patrick Chalmers, on behalf of his late father, were 'unsubstantiated.' Since then the Society has seen no reason to alter its views.

"On the question of priority there can be no doubt that Sir Rowland Hill was first in the field, for, as stated in your article, he, in his evidence given before the Commissioners of Post Office Inquiry on 13 February, 1837, proposed the use of adhesive as well as other kinds of postage stamps; while Mr. Chalmers, both in his printed proposals and in his original letters, which are in my possession, states that he first made his plan public in November, 1837."

THE STAMP KING

by G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XIX (continued)

herein Betty proves to William that all roads lead to Rome, even that by way of New York.

"KNEW you were having me spied upon," said William.

"Oh, what an ugly word!" returned Betty. "I simply took an interest in your proceedings. So was informed that you had taken places for the L.M.—a whole saloon, if you please—and that me showed me you were going to Naples—a place I don't know, but which is very celebrated, and which shall be delighted to see. Of course I don't ask you what you are going to do there; it is as much to our interest to keep it a secret as it is to mine to discover it. But you, Mr. Keniss, who are so touchy to other people's acts, it seems to me that your imp—"

"Oh, Miss Betty!" And William, greatly distressed, poured forth reasons, excuses, and justifications, all telling against John, so many and so well, that Betty said, as she offered him her hand—

"Bah! I know perfectly well that it is no fault of yours. You are far too honourable and courteous, and such a suspicion never once entered my mind."

Whether sincere or diplomatic—and can one ever know how to take a woman's word?—it produced its effect, for William was moved, and, seizing her other hand, carried it to his lips, retaining it in his own other longer than a man who is indifferent is wont to do.

They arrived at Turin, and, while the train stopped a few minutes under the magnificent arch and imptuous arcades which give this station the aspect rather of a cathedral or palace than a railway station, John, quite out of breath, entered the compartment occupied by Betty, William, and Victoria.

"Oh, sir, do come at once. I think that gentleman who came with you is really very ill."

"What is the matter with him?"

"He is mad. While I was busy in the dressing-room he carried off all the bags and ran away. But I saw him as he was just going out of the station, and I caught him and brought him back by force into the carriage."

"Hear! hear!" said Betty mysteriously.

"You will excuse me if I go and see him?" asked William.

"Go and help the poor man, by all means."

The Stamp King left his neighbour, and found Commander Luigi had thrown himself again on his bed, under heaps of rugs and in the midst of the cattered baggage.

"I hear you are feeling worse."

An indistinct rattling sound came from among the pillows and cushions, and at first William could make nothing of this strange invalid. Then the commander, having risked a glance and perceived that his companion had returned alone, raised his head, perspiring, red, and suffocating.

"Why, my dear friend, you are being smothered down there!" cried William.

"Oh, no, I'm all right. It's the infusion."

"How do you feel? Where is the pain?"

"All over, and in no place in particular. It is very bad."

The commander's eyes never left the door which

separated the two compartments of the saloon. Once the handle moved at the shaking of the train as it started, and he plunged again into the midst of the rugs, and for a quarter of an hour could not be persuaded to show the tip of his nose.

"What can I do for you? Is there anything that would relieve you?" persisted William.

A stifled voice, deadened by the thick coverings as by a gag, replied—

"Nothing, nothing. Do be quiet. Leave me alone."

The poor man seemed so feeble and depressed that his friend thought it would be more charitable to leave him in peace, as sleep would have a more salutary effect upon him than all the medicine in the world. But he stayed near, so as to be ready to assist him in case of need, and thus the journey proceeded till they arrived at Genoa, enlivened by the beauty of the scenery and the splendour of the blue Mediterranean, which came into sight as they left the Apennines. But from time to time he paid a short visit to Miss Betty.

"Well, what news?" the girl would ask.

"Still very weak. I can't make out what is the matter."

After passing Genoa evening fell, and finally, when night blotted out the lovely panorama of indented coast and sapphire sea, William went to pay a last, good-night visit to his neighbour.

"Is he better now?" asked Miss Betty for the hundredth time.

"He does not seem to improve at all, but has alternate stages of frenzy and prostration which quite alarm me. I tried to persuade him just to glance at this fascinating Gulf of Genoa, but even that could not rouse him from his stupor."

"He must indeed be very ill," observed Betty with a smile.

"I had thought of doing him a kindness by asking you to go and see him, as he was not able to come to you. I explained that I knew you very well and that you would not mind coming—"

"And then?" asked Betty, looking puzzled.

"Oh, then he was really terrible. He jumped up like a madman, with staring eyes, crying, 'No, no, no one! Don't bring anyone! Don't bring her!'"

"One would think I was not much in sympathy with him," returned the little American gaily. Then she drew from her bag a little box, which she opened, and took out the pin found in her trunk a few days earlier, on her first arrival at the Hotel Bristol.

"When you dress to-morrow morning," she said, "put this pin in your tie. I found it by accident in Paris, and I think I cannot make a better use of it than by giving it to you."

This was uttered with such charming grace, and with an air so free and yet so full of reserve, that William took the gold serpent twining round the malachite and overwhelmed her with thanks, declaring he would never wear any other.

"You will tell me what the—the—what do you call him?"

"Commander?"

"Yes, what the commander thinks of it. I feel sure he will admire it. But be sure and not show it to anyone before to-morrow."

A sudden thought occurred to William.

"You are so kind to me," he said, "and I am

ashamed that you should have been beforehand with me; but I will not wait any longer before offering you a diamond, which came into my hands in a no less remarkable way in London, and which I meant for you."

While speaking he was searching in his pockets, especially the one in which he felt sure he had put the Maharajah's diamond, but, to his great surprise, however much he searched he could find nothing.

"It is very strange," he murmured; "I was so sure of having kept it about me." And he felt and felt with growing anxiety.

"I must have buried it at the bottom of a bag without thinking," he ejaculated. "I will look for it to-morrow by daylight."

Betty, noticing how disconcerted he was at the failure of his research, tried to comfort him.

"No doubt you have packed it with your other things. I thank you none the less, and consider the gracious act accomplished."

William then retired into his compartment, shut the door and drew the bolts, which appeared to give the commander great relief.

"Ah, that is better!" he said, stretching himself.

"Indeed! I am very glad to hear you are feeling better. Will you come and see Miss Scott?"

"No, no!" returned Spartivento hastily. "We must not disturb her now. It is too late."

The commander walked up and down the carpet laid across the saloon, stretching, yawning, and shaking himself, as a man who is thankful at relinquishing an uncomfortable position.

"While I think of it," said William, but without attaching any importance to the matter, "why did you leave the train at Turin in such a hurry, carrying off the portmanteaus with you?"

"Do you know I actually thought we had come to the end of our journey," returned the commander.

"My ideas were so confused, and my head in such a muddle, that I felt sure I heard them cry, 'Naples! Naples! All change.'"

William, being very tired, went immediately to bed, reassured now as to his companion's health, while the express continued on its route towards Rome.

CHAPTER XX

How William, though Betty's creditor, is about to become her debtor.

TOWARDS half-past six in the morning they arrived in Rome. As there was only a short stop there before the train left for Naples, William and Betty, anxious though they both were to take a peep at the Eternal City, had but just time to glance at S. Maria degli Angeli and S. Maria Maggiore, and only at the exterior of these, and they were obliged to return hastily to the station.

During their absence John and Victoria had been walking up and down the platform talking of their own little affairs.

"Well, Mr. Cockburn, goodness only knows where we are going!" said Victoria.

"But I know too," said John with a patronising air.

"Yes, yes, to Naples; but after that?"

"That is a secret."

"Oh!" returned the girl with dignity, "I don't allow you to tell me. And yet it interests me, for our marriage suffers by it. What delays there are!" she added with a sigh. "Doesn't the time seem long to you?"

"Oh, yes, certainly," returned John negligently. "Then when do you think we shall be able to marry?"

"You are always asking me that. I will think about it."

"You always say that," And Victoria continued her melancholy complaints as they walked alone under the great glass roof by the side of the train now ready to start.

The commander, who was watching them from the saloon, whence he had not yet issued, chose a moment when their backs were turned, seized all the small baggage, jumped out, and ran to one of the doors leading out of the station.

"Your ticket," demanded the man in charge.

"I'll give it you in a minute. Can't you see my hands are full?"

"I can't let you go out without your ticket."

The discussion was growing warm, when William and Betty suddenly appeared at the same door, coming into the station. Quick as lightning the commander turned on his heels and rushed back to the saloon, climbed in, and threw himself again among his rug. Betty, who had had a good view of him, began to laugh, and William, always full of solicitude for his companion, was troubled to see that his strange illness had returned after his partial recovery the evening before.

"It just shows what a feverish state he is in," he said. "I sincerely hope the poor man will arrive home without any mishap."

But in his haste the commander had let fall one of his own bags, which, as it rolled along the pavement opened, and scattered some of its contents. William coming after him, stooped to put them back again and what was his surprise to see, among the combs and tooth-brushes strewn on the ground, a shining object, which he immediately recognised as the diamond he had bought in London from the Maharajah of Brahmapoetra.

"Well," said he, "how in the world could this diamond get into the commander's bag?"

"Apparently the commander must have put it there," returned Betty.

"He is mad," concluded the Stamp King, "or he must be the most absent-minded of men."

At these words Betty made a little impatient gesture, which passed unnoticed. Then she returned to her compartment, and William, after presenting her with the diamond, regained his.

(To be continued.)



PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Durban and District Philatelic Society

President : J. Wallace Bradley.

Secretary : A. Guttesen, 25, Castle Arcade, Durban.

Meetings : Bristow's Buildings, Durban.

Annual Subscription : Seniors, 5s. ; Juniors, 2s. 6d.

Coming Stamp Exhibition

THE seventh general meeting of the Durban and District Philatelic Society was held at their rooms, Bristow's Buildings, West Street, on Tuesday evening. Mr. G. E. McLaren, the Vice-President, was in the chair, the President, Mr. J. Wallace Bradley, being unable to attend until later in the evening. A few amendments to the existing rules were made, principally one which now invites visitors in town to attend the meetings. The minutes of the last meeting being read by the Secretary, Mr. A. Guttesen, 25, Castle Arcade, Mr. McLaren intimated his intention of awarding a prize of £5 5s. for the best collection exhibited at an exhibition to be held during June, 1906. Other prizes will also be offered and competed for. An exhibition is to be held during December next, when a splendid variety of collections, sheets of stamps, etc., will be shown for the first time in Durban. Last month's packet of stamps in circulation amongst the members is valued at over £40. The subscription is only 5s. per annum, and the privileges gained by becoming a member are many and advantageous. For the disposal of stamps only 15 per cent. charged, this commission going to the Society's benefit.

The Chairman urged the members to use every effort to bring the philatelic circle in Durban closer together, and, with such distinguished personages as His Excellency the Governor and Sir Benjamin Greenacre as patrons, all those having stamps, whether beginners or collectors of years' standing, should

make a point of not only attending the Society's meetings, which are held every first and third Tuesday of the month, but of becoming active members. Tuesday next, the 15th, at 7.45 p.m., will, it is hoped, see the room again filled with philatelic friends, young and old.

The Junior Philatelic Society

President : Fred J. Melville.

Secretary : H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings : Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription : 1s. 6d.

IN anticipation of the full and extensive programme of meetings for the coming season of the Junior Philatelic Society, it is now definitely announced that the first meeting will be held at Exeter Hall on Saturday, 7 October, when it is hoped that all members who can possibly attend will do so. It is urged also that they bring any friends of the stampic persuasion, and introduce them to the advantages of membership in this Society, which is now the largest in the country. The full programme of over twenty meetings will be sent to any one who writes for it, as soon as it is ready, which will be in a day or two. Applicants should therefore write for this interesting programme at once. Any one desirous of joining the Society (annual subscription 1s. 6d.) is invited to apply at once for election at the opening meeting, when it is expected a good number of new members will be elected.

Among the items on the lengthy programme for the opening meeting are an auction, the President's address, a paper, and a display. Every stamp collector (lady or gentleman) is invited to attend. All communications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, London, S.W.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Auction Catalogues

UP to the time of writing the only auction catalogue that has reached me is that of Glendining and Co. It is true they start a day or two before the others, but, even so, some other catalogues should be out before this. A few seasons ago there was a great deal of complaint over the late issue of catalogues. An auction catalogue of a stamp sale should be out at least a month in advance to give time for the receipt of American and Continental bids. To send out a catalogue a few days only before the sale is to seriously jeopardize the property to be offered. It is not fair to either buyer or seller.

Following Sales

I HEAR that Messrs. Glendining and Co. have already received a good number of important collections for auction, amongst which is the very fine collection formed by Mr. N. de Schoulepnikow, of Tour-de-Peilz, Switzerland. This collection is exceptionally strong in all the stamps of Portugal and Colonies, as the owner lived for some time in Lisbon and had unusual facilities.

Another collection is that of Mr. Sherring, of Bristol, particulars of which will be announced in due course.

Collections sold to Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD., announce that during the summer months they have made some very important purchases of fine specialized collections, amongst which is a collection formed by Baron Anthony de Worms of the stamps of the West Coast of Africa, including Gambia, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Lagos, and St. Helena. This collection is exceptionally strong in stamps in blocks, and every copy is mint. Another important purchase recently was the fine specialized collection formed by Mr. H. R. Oldfield of Colombia and all its States. Included in this is an especially fine lot of Tolima type-set stamps of the first issue, including a number of plates complete, and others partially constructed, as well as a large quantity of single stamps. In the rare first issue of Antioquia there were no less than seven copies of the 2½ c., five copies (including a pair) of the 5 c., four of the rare 10 c., and six of the 1 peso. This collection is in three volumes, and can now be sent on approval to all those who care to see it.

Other fine collections purchased include a highly specialized collection of the stamps of Tasmania, in which there are nearly forty copies of the 1d., blue, first issue, including three unused and a plate nearly

complete. Of the 4d., octagonal, there are a number unused, two plates partly remade, and a superb unused copy of that great rarity the 4d., on paper laid with wide lines. The later issues are remarkably complete in all shades, used and unused, and in all varieties of perfs. and watermarks.

Several other specialized collections have been purchased, but are not at present on sale.

More Bloating

BE it noted that in Mr. Oldfield's collection of Antioquia "there were no less than seven copies of the 2½c., five copies (including a pair) of the 5c., four of the rare 10c., and six of the 1 peso" of the rare first issue.

Wicked man!

Only a few short months ago he started a crusade against bloating. He pilloried such collectors as Mr. Vernon Roberts, Mr. E. J. Nankivell, and others for gobbling up so many copies of rare stamps when one copy would have sufficed for all the purposes of collecting.

And now, alas, how are the mighty fallen!

The fact of the matter is that the specialist cannot refrain from bloating. Mr. Oldfield was a terrible bloater. He had Bolivia's first issue by the sheet. Then he made public confession of the error of his ways, and started a crusade against bloating, and now

he has apparently fallen away from his own ideals and been bloating away, on the quiet, as bad as ever.

Gibbons New Stock Books

READERS of *G.S.W.* are not likely to be tempted to go in for Stanley Gibbons Stock Books, but they will be interested in the values attached to the latest list which has been arranged ready for sale. These stock books are carefully arranged by well-known specialists and experts, who carefully weed out every doubtful stamp and then arrange the pick of the stock in proper order and in a manner to tempt the specialist.

When a new stock book of a country is made up there is a competition amongst the specialists of the country for first pick, and it is nothing uncommon for one collector to take from one such book stamps to the value of hundreds of pounds.

Here, then, is the list of the latest stock books which have been arranged for sale. The Transvaal volumes must be a fine lot.

| | VALUE. |
|--|--------|
| Transvaal, 2 vols. | £2,760 |
| Swaziland and Stellaland | 367 |
| Danish West Indies and Iceland | 331 |
| Salvador, 2 vols. | 202 |
| Straits Settlements to Johore | 730 |
| Perak to Sungei Ujong | 716 |
| Queensland, 2 vols. | 1,324 |
| German Colonies | 252 |
| Turkey | 298 |

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1,000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

SEPTEMBER, 1905

- 18, 19, & 20. Auction: Glendining & Co., 7 Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
- 21 & 22. Auction: Plumridge & Co., 64 Chancery Lane, London.
- 25. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—How to increase the membership, opened by A. Moffatt; Display—British South Africa and Persia.
- 26 & 27. Auction: Puttick & Simpson, 47 Leicester Square.
- 28 & 29. Auction: Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, Strand, London.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 13
Whole No. 38

23 SEPTEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Austrian Italy

IN the sixteenth century Austria was the most powerful dynasty in the world. Its ruler was elected Emperor of Germany, and its dominion extended to the Netherlands and to Sicily. In the centuries that followed the wars for supremacy in Germany and Italy, Austria eventually lost ground, till in a war with Prussia in 1859 she was compelled to cede Lombardy, and Venice was all that was left of her Italian possessions. Venetia was surrendered to Italy after the war of 1866.

But when the first issue of stamps was made in 1850 Austria still held the Lombardo-Venetian States, and for their use she provided duplicate series in Italian currency till 1866.

1850. Five values. Design, the Arms of Austria on a shield surmounted with the imperial crown. Currency expressed in centesimi instead of kreuzers. This first issue was imperforate. In unused condition the stamps are very scarce, but

the whole set may be had used for a few pence.



| Imperforate. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|--------------------|---------|------|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 5 c., yellow . . . | . | — | 1 | 6 |
| 10 c., black . . . | . | 20 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 15 c., red . . . | . | 15 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 30 c., brown . . . | . | 30 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 45 c., blue . . . | . | — | 0 | 2 |

1858-0. Five values. Design, embossed head of the Emperor with profile to left, the framework differing in all values. Currency changed to soldi instead of centesimi. The 3 soldi was issued with the other values first in black, but it was subsequently changed to green. The stamps were perforated. The designs

were the same as those of the 1858-9 series of Austria, which we illustrate.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 sol., yellow | . | 5 0 | 1 3 |
| 3 „ black | . | 12 6 | 3 0 |
| 3 „ green | . | 7 6 | 1 6 |
| 5 „ red | . | 1 3 | 0 1 |
| 10 „ brown | . | 5 0 | 0 3 |
| 15 „ blue | . | 8 0 | 0 3 |

1861. Two values. In 1858 Austria was compelled to cede Lombardy to Italy, and consequently provided only two values to serve with the unsold stock for use in the remaining Italian State of Venetia. The design was very simple, but neat: embossed head of the Emperor in profile to right in an upright oval band. Perforated.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 sol., dull red | . | 20 0 | 0 1 |
| 10 „ brown | . | 30 0 | 0 8 |

1863. Five values. Design, embossed Arms of Austria in an upright oval. The design is practically the same as that of the last issue, with the substitution of the Arms for the head of the Emperor. The series was issued for use in the Italian State of Venetia and the consular office in the Levant. Perforated.



| | Perforated. | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------|-------------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 sol., yellow | . | 0 9 | 1 0 |
| 3 „ green | . | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 5 „ rose | . | 0 3 | 0 1 |
| 10 „ blue | . | 0 9 | 0 1 |
| 15 „ brown | . | 0 6 | 0 4 |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

THE PHILATELIST'S COLLECTING BOOK.

For the coat pocket. With patent fastening to flap. Size, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Handsomely bound in Art Cloak. Each book contains 12 pages, having four strips of linen, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide, arranged horizontally, glued at the bottom edge and with the upper one open, for the safe retention and preservation of recent purchases or duplicates. A large pocket is also provided at the back for Envelopes or Stamps in bulk. In daily use by leading London Collectors. No. 17, post-free, 2s. 7d. No. 18—oblong, 24 pages, 6 strips on each page, interleaved with strong glazed paper to prevent rubbing—post-free, 5s. 4d.; abroad, 5s. 6d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

WATERMARKS

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 182.)

HERE let me give the reader a short object lesson in comparison of values. Take up the Catalogue and compare the 1d., olive-yellow, Gold Coast of 1876-9, watermark Crown CC, with the ½d., olive-yellow, of 1883, watermark Crown A. The difference in value between the 1d., blue, of these same issues, which are identical, save for the watermark, will be found both interesting and instructive, and will have greater weight than any words of mine in teaching the value of a sound knowledge of watermarks.

Multiple watermarks are now the order of the day. The single watermark is fast disappearing. Our colonies have exhibited unexampled keenness in their desire to discard the single Crown CA and walk in the van of fashion. Most have already joined the ranks of the Stars and Crescents of the Sudanese, the Turtles of Tonga, and the Quatrefoils of Zanzibar. The multiple watermark has come to stay, and undoubtedly such a method of imprinting watermarks close together has its advantages. Stamps of any size can now be printed on the same watermarked paper without any fear that a stamp will not receive its fair share of watermark.

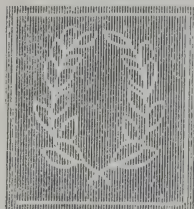


As an example of comparison of prices between stamps of recent date watermarked Crown CA and the same stamps on paper with multiple watermark, I append Gibbons New Catalogue list for some of the 1903 and 1904 issues of Cyprus.

| 1903-4. | 1904. |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Crown CA. | Multiple Crown CA. |
| s. d. | s. d. |
| ½ piastre, green and carmine, unused | 0 3 0 1 |
| 2 piastres, blue and marone | 0 6 0 4 |
| 6 " sepia and green | 2 6 1 0 |
| 9 " brown and carmine | 12 6 1 6 |

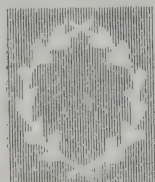
Another form of Crown or Circlet is seen in the issues of Hanover between 1851 and 1855. It is a crown of oak leaves. While the Prussian issue of 1850-6 presents a Wreath of Laurel as the watermark.

HANOVER.



1851-5.

PRUSSIA.



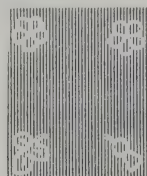
1850-6.

In the matter of emblems borrowed from heraldry the issues of our own country in the years 1855-7 present a fine crop. There are the Small, Medium, and Large Garters and the four heraldic flowers, viz., two Roses, a Thistle, and a Shamrock Leaf, which emblems, owing to their being placed in different positions, give rise to no less than eighteen varieties of watermark.

GREAT BRITAIN.



1855-7.



A Spray of Rose followed in 1867, while a Maltese Cross, an Anchor, and an Orb fill up the gap between 1867 and 1880.

GREAT BRITAIN.

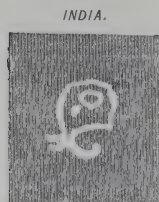


1867-70.



1873-80.

India found the Elephant's Head a characteristic watermark in 1865; while Norway, ten years previously, took to herself a watermarked Lion Rampant armed with an Axe.



1865.



1855.

Other watermarks of an heraldic nature may be seen in the Swan of Western Australia; the Pyramid surmounted by a Rose and the Crescent and Star of Egypt; the Tower of Aragon for Spain; Flowers of Myosotis for Lubeck; an Anchor with or without Cable for the Cape of Good Hope; a Maltese Cross for England; a kind of shell-fish, the "Ying-Yang," for China; the "Sankho," another sacred shell-fish, a divine emblem of Vishnu, at Travancore; and a Toothed Wheel for Siam.

The Post-horn is seen in varied forms in the watermarks of the stamps of Brunswick, Holland, and Norway.

Certain British colonies have a Star as watermark. This Star is in three sizes, Large, Small, and Broad (i.e. broad at the points). The Large Star measures some 15 to 16 millimetres across it, and figures in the long stamps of Ceylon, St. Helena, etc. The Small Star, 12 to 13½ millimetres cross measurement, is seen in the ordinary-sized stamps of Grenada, Barbados, etc. Sometimes the Large Star was used as a watermark on the smaller stamps, with the result that the watermark comes anywhere, and portions of two Stars may be found on the same stamp.

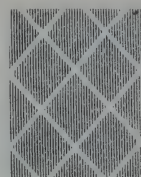
Here, again, let me indulge in another example of financial interest. The reader will remember that among the six best reasons given for collecting stamps by those who entered for the first competition in the *Stamp Weekly*, "Investment" came out top of the list. If those 252 competitors, and as many more as care to do so, will turn up their Gibbons Catalogues and compare the values placed on the (1d.), blue, Barbados, 1870, watermarked with a Large Star, and on the (1d.) blue, Barbados, 1871, with the Small Star

watermark, they will agree with me when I say that the subject of watermark plays no small part in the value of stamp collecting as an investment. And this example is only one out of many which the diligent collector can hunt up for himself, where stamps, apparently the same, are distinguished by their watermarks. As these watermarks determine their dates of issue and, consequently, their rarity or otherwise, so are the prices determined.

Lines forming various geometric figures also occupy a prominent place in watermarks. For example, we have the "Loops" of the 1855 issue of Spain and the lines crossed diagonally and forming lozenge shapes in the 1856 issue.



1855.

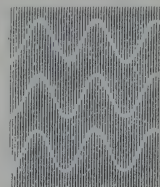


1856.

In the 1870-3 issue of Bavaria we have a Lozenge of different size and shape from the above, while the Bavarian stamps of 1888-1900 are watermarked with a series of horizontal wavy lines.



1870-3.



1888-1900.

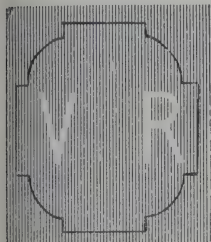
Bavaria presents yet another form of "Lozenge" in the issue of 1874. Long horizontal wavy lines and close perpendicular wavy lines appear in the issues of 1875 and 1881 respectively.

Letters, either in ordinary capitals, or interlaced, or accompanied by a Royal Crown, also figure in watermarks. The earliest example of this is seen in the embossed series of Great Britain with the watermark VR. Luxemburg, in the first issue of 1852, had the watermark W, the initial of the Grand Duke William III. The 1852 1 lira issue of Modena was watermarked with a double-lined capital

the initial of the maker of the paper, Agostino Amici. Queensland gives us examples of the Letter and Crown type, as also South Australia and Victoria. A specimen of interlaced letters, with or without frame, is seen in the issue of Belgium from 1849 to 1852.

on it. Complications arose through the printing of stamps of one value on the paper designed for another. These colonies have since used the watermarks NSW under a Crown, T A S and V over a Crown, respectively.

GREAT BRITAIN.



1847-54.

BELGIUM.



1849-52.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.



1877.

VICTORIA.



1867-82.

GREAT BRITAIN.



1870.

NEW SOUTH WALES.



1854.



1871-83.

For peculiarity the watermark on the 1889 issue of Shanghai would be hard to beat. It consists of Chinese characters signifying "Kong pou."

SHANGHAI.



1889.

The only English stamp which has a watermark in written characters is the first halfpenny stamp of 1870. The word "half penny" occupies the space of three stamps lengthwise.

New South Wales, Tasmania, and Victoria used paper with a special watermark in figures or words, or both, denoting the value of the stamp to be printed

(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

A STAMP COMMISSION

By C. RAYMOND MEGSON

THE beneficent fates had smiled kindly on Ezekiah Binks. For twenty years he had kept the grocery stores of Pudton, a village aspiring to some seven or eight hundred inhabitants, and had indeed striven strenuously to pay his way and provide always for himself and wife some "best Sunday clothes." However, he now possessed an adequate competence to allow the twain to live in comparative

luxury for the rest of their lives, owing to the demise of a rich uncle in Australia, who had made Ezekiah sole legatee.

Ezekiah bought a gabled villa on the outskirts of the village, and became a regular subscriber to the *Mugton Weekly Magpie* (Mugton was the nearest market town), a journal of boundless ambition; not content with merely retailing the news of the week to its readers, it pro-

vided them with such intellectual feasts as "The Poultry Run," "Notes on Japan—and Black Varnish." The apogee of success was reached, however, when the paper secured the services of an expert from London to write two columns each week for the "Collector." Therefrom the man with a hobby could cull much valuable information as to chinaware, glass, coins, and stamps.

It was this column which appealed most to our friend the whilom grocer.

Each Friday evening, when the *Magpie* arrived, Ezekiah, ensconced in an easy chair, would blow gentle clouds of curling smoke from his old "Churchwarden," while his wife read to him.

One week the "Collector's columns" were devoted entirely to stamps, a hobby which Mr. Binks had not as yet favoured with his devotion.

"Stamp collecting is a marvellous thing," said Maria, his wife, scanning the columns of the *Magpie*. "It says here that one single stamp, the popular rarity, the 2d., blue, 'Post Office' Mauritius, was recently sold at auction for £1450, and is now one of the treasured gems of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales' collection, the worth of which collection may be estimated at anything over £10,000.

Ezekiah shook his head. "Fuzzle, Maria, all fuzzle," he said. "I can't believe that about the single stamp. Why, if a stamp was rolled into a tight little ball, it would be as big as perhaps, say, a couple of split peas, or a fair-sized lump of tapioca. Now a diamond that size would only be worth £100 to £200, and I'm loath to believe that stamps are more precious than diamonds; but go on, Maria."

"Well, listen, 'Kiah. It says that a Mr. Tapling bequeathed to the British nation a splendid collection, the value of which is certainly more than £100,000, and it is now to be seen in the British Museum. A philatelic society has paid a couple of visits to view it, and would discover fresh beauties were they to pay a couple more. It also says the Earl of Crawford has a fine collection, too—You've heard of him, haven't you, 'Kiah? He raced over to Ameriky on a yacht, if you remember—and one collector sold a collection of Australian stamps for £10,000."

Ezekiah moved in his chair. "Australian

stamps, eh!" said he. "Umph! I have a lot of those upstairs, Maria, which have received on letters from poor old uncle Paul. P'raps they're worth something."

"Mebbe," replied his wife. "Why not ask the squire? He collects stamps, I understand."

Ezekiah lapsed into silence, and became deep in thought. Suddenly he sprang from his chair, walked over to where his wife was sitting, and accentuating every other word with repeated taps on the table with the back of his hand, said "Maria, the nation collects stamps, like wise Royalty, likewise the nobility and gentry, likewise the squire. Seeing a money makes the man, why not likewise Ezekiah Binks?" And he strutted round the parlour puffing at his pipe, with one hand deep in his trousers pocket, with the air of a man convinced that he had thought something, said something, and done something great.

Mrs. Binks opened her eyes wide at this sudden outburst, stared at 'Kiah and said sententiously, "Why not?"

And he repeated, "Why not?"

Mr. Binks was a man of prompt action. The next morning he took an early walk to the domicile of his nephew, a farm labourer who was about to become connubially linked to a servant girl at the doctor's, and was "a-going up to Lunnon for his honeymoon."

Arriving at the house, he found his nephew busily engaged in the garden. "Good morning, John."

"Good morning, uncle," said John relinquishing his self-imposed task "Good morning to you."

Ezekiah soon went into business. "John," he said, "you're going to London for your honeymoon. Now I want you to execute a commission for me. Don't interrupt me until I've finished. I am going to collect stamps. Now I want you to go along the Strand towards Charing Cross. On your right, not far from the station, I understand, you will see an establishment where you can buy stamps. Now get me about thirty shillings' worth as a start, and an album. I'll have one from London. Yes, I will. If Ezekiah Binks collects, he'll have a London album. Can you do this for me John?"

John readily assented; he had expectations from his uncle Ezekiah.

"Don't forget, the shop on the right. Remember the squire saying to a friend it was the best place to get stamps; I seem to forget the name, though, and the squire is away."

Ezekiah slipped a five-pound note into his nephew's hand, and told him to keep the change. "It may come in useful for a man about to be married," said Mr. Binks, as he left his nephew beaming with suppressed excitement, and a fixed determination to get the stamps for his uncle afore he took Polly even to see the "Crown Joels" in the Tower of "Luncheon" or Madame "Twosword's" wax-work show.

Two mornings after the celebration of the nuptials, the postman brought Mr. Binks a parcel from London. "Ah," thought he, as he smilingly relieved the postman of his load, "John's a good lad; I'll remember him some day"; and he hastily cut the string of the parcel, anxious to get at the contents. On the top lay a letter as follows:—

MY DEAR UNCLE,—Polly and I arrived safe; we send our best respects to dear aunt and you. Before going any sight-seeing this morning, we walked from where we are staying down Bedford Street into the Strand, anxious to do a little for a uncle who has been so kind to us. I saw the shop which you must have meant right opposite or nearly opposite the railway station. It had the words "Post Office" on the

window. I walked in and asked to see some stamps. They obliged, but stared rather hard; perhaps that was because they could see me and Polly is just newly spliced. I asked the price of them. The green ones were ½d. each, and the red ones 1d. each; the other colours were dearer, but they all have the price marked on them. The half-crown ones and above are a bit larger, but not so much as it seems they ought to be for the extra money, so I only got one at 2s. 6d. and one at 5s. Hoping as you will like them, dear uncle. The London album I couldn't get there, so I went to another shop and got one, forty views for one shilling, which I hope also as you will like.

We are to-day going to see the mummies in the British Museum, and mean to enjoy ourselves proper.

Polly sends her love to dear aunt and you, so does your affectionate nephew,
JOHN.

Mr. Binks heaved a deep sigh, and bringing his fist down heavily on the table, cried, "The idiot!"

He had, it is pleasing to state however, a saving sense of humour, and gradually the ludicrous aspect of the affair presented itself to him. He laughed loudly and long at his nephew's stupid blunder; but not to be daunted, decided his wife needed a change, and so took her to London for a holiday, making use of such opportunity to procure the stamps himself "at the stamp shop on the right."

On his return to his native village he and his wife spent many happy hours adding to and looking over the collection, and imparting to admiring friends such information as they possessed.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Prospective New Issues

OF late new issues have been few and far between. Indeed, all through the summer there has been quite a slack time in novelties. But there are indications of a more lively time during the next few months.

We are promised a new Italian series with a variety of designs—the King in various uniforms and various attitudes, sunrise at sea, Alpine scenes, and so on.

Norway is said to be contemplating a new series, for which designs have been invited.

And last, but not least, I hear that the new Commonwealth paper watermarked Crown and A is already being used for

printing Victorian stamps, which probably means that we may look out for a change of watermark in all the Australian stamps printed in Melbourne, i.e. Victorian, Tasmanian, and Western Australian; so that before we get the settled Commonwealth series we are likely to have many minor changes, not a few of which may elude all but the watchful.

The New Gibbons

FEW things in the stamp world seem to have given so much satisfaction of late as the new Gibbons. The full-size illustrations throughout, the thin, excellent paper, the beautifully clear printing, and the yet handy size of the volumes

are matters of everyday congratulation amongst collectors. The Catalogue falls open flat most pleasantly at any page, and is so well bound that it does not break into sections like so many books that are subject to so much rough daily handling.

Nearing Perfection

But the nearer our Gibbons reaches perfection, the greater will unquestionably be the outcry for absolute perfection. The publishers may insist till they are blue in the face that it is not intended to be anything more than a price list of their own goods, and that they are going to do just as they please with their modest price list. They know perfectly well that they are spending no end of labour, and using up no end of expert advice and assistance, and straining every effort to make it the essential catalogue for all collectors. If you want to catch them on the hop, speak of the Catalogue as a mere price list and nothing more.

The Colour Problem

Some day our Gibbons will have to call in a special committee of colour experts to settle on some definite basis what is what in the matter of colours and shades. That committee will have to simplify and reduce the shades to manageable dimensions, and lay down a settled and agreed nomenclature of colours. If our Gibbons would do that we should all fall into line like marching soldiers, and the colour problem would be settled for ever and aye.

A Big Business

But 'tis a big business. It is easy enough for any clerk to list up a terrifying array of shades from our Gibbons, but how many of the critics who have written so glibly about all these complexities have contributed, or could contribute, a rational idea for the solution of the difficulties that are apparent to all of us? Scores and scores of books have been written on the colour question. And yet, despite all the writings of Chevrue, Von Bezold, Rood, Church, Grant Allen, Vanderpoel, and many others, we have not one work

which can be accepted by us philatelists as a guide and final authority for our recognition and naming of colours.

What we want is defined, in an appendix to her work on *Colour Problems*, by Emily Noyes Vanderpoel as a "colour chart a systematic arrangement of colours a geometrical design such that every variation and combination of hue, tint and shade is in its proper place and in correct relation to all other hues, tints and shades."

Shades

The question of naming shades is the most difficult one and in my humble opinion should, in a catalogue, be rigidly confined to the most pronounced and unquestionable variations. All writers on colour emphasize the fact that tints and shades are influenced by the wave of light and by the reflection of coloured surroundings. Vanderpoel illustrates this as follows:—

Look at a piece of sealing-wax. Hold it up by a window, and the high gloss on it will reflect so much light as to make the side toward the light appear almost white; on another side the true or local colour, the brilliant red, will be seen; and the side in shadow will be of another colour still, darker and more crimson or violet-red.

And she tells the following story to the effect of reflections from near objects:—

An artist painted a portrait in which the likeness was spoiled by the unnatural amount of red in the complexion. On examination it was found to have been put there rightly, inasmuch as the artist certainly saw it; the error lay in choosing a place for the subject where the red reflection from a brick wall was thrown on his face. In a room, a yellow wall-paper and a curtain of some other colour may be thrown combined and confusing, though perhaps at the same time most interesting, reflections on some object.

Simplification

All of which goes to prove that in an attempt to define niceties of shades in a popular catalogue for general use, we are attempting what must be surrounded with many difficulties and not a few unsuspected and warping influences.

Ergo it seems to me that the line of least resistance, of greatest success, and of most satisfaction must lie in the direction of a severe simplification.

THE BEST STAMP HINGES.

We have just prepared a new stamp hinge, of convenient size, put up in *air-tight tin boxes*, each containing 1000 hinges of good tough paper, doubly gummed, and thus easily peelable. Post-free, 7d. per box.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 392, Strand, London, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Chili.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. tell us that they have received the complete set of the new designs which we are now enabled to set out.



Perf.

- 1 centavo, green.
- 2 centavos, carmine.
- 3 " brown.
- 5 " blue.



- 10 centavos, grey, portrait black.
- 12 " lake "
- 15 " purple "
- 20 " orange brown, portrait black.
- 30 " blue-green "
- 50 " blue "



1 peso, bronze-green and black.

Denmark.—At last we have received some more values of the portrait series. The 25 øre, 50 øre, and 100 øre are now before us. The designs are the same as before, but the colours are as ineffective and poor as they could well be.



Wmk. Crown. Perf.

- 10 øre, scarlet.
- 20 " blue.
- 25 " sepia.
- 50 " violet.
- 100 " yellow-brown.

Germany.—We quote the following from the *Times* of the 1st inst. :—

"It is stated that the German postal authorities will issue new postage stamps on October 1 for correspondence between Germany and Kiaochow. The change will chiefly consist in the value of the stamps being printed on them in dollars and cents, so as to bring the denominations of the value more in harmony with the Chinese system of coinage. Hitherto the value of the stamps was denoted in marks and pfennige. The sale of the old postage stamps was to cease in Berlin yesterday. In the colonies, however, it will continue until the 30th prox. Another interesting item for philatelists is that there is in contemplation a great innovation with regard to all the postage stamps of the German Empire and its colonies. At all events experiments are being made at the Imperial printing establishment with the printing of the stamps on watermark papers. The oldest Prussian postage stamps, those which bore the portrait of King Frederick William IV, had a watermark in the form of a wreath of oak leaves. But since that time, for about half a century, watermarks were not applied to either the Prussian or the North German or the Imperial postage stamps; but it is considered that such a mark is one of the best means to prevent imitations and counterfeiting."

Greece.—We are indebted to Mr. S. Palli, Athens, for the following extract from the Greek newspaper *Embros*, of Saturday, September 2nd (new style):—

"Yesterday the committee which was appointed some time ago met and agreed upon the designs for the Olympian Games commemoration stamps. These will be—

"1 lepta and 2 lepta stamps, Apollo throwing the disk, taken from the 4 drachmae silver coin of the island Ko in the fifth century B.C.

"3 l. and 5 l., Atlas, taken from an ancient disk.

"10 l., Victory sitting in an amphora with a scroll in her hand.

"20 l. and 50 l., Hercules carrying the world on his shoulders, and Atlas bringing him the Apples of the Hesperides.

"25 lepta, the fight of Hercules with Antée.

"30 l., wrestling.

"40 l., the demon on a shield transformed into a winged youth holding a bird.

"1, 2, and 3 drachmae, races taken from ancient tiles.

"5 drachmae, three torch-bearers, the Goddess of Victory, and priests making offerings for the games."

Hong Kong.—Two more of the high values, the 3 dols. and 5 dols., are to hand on the multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- 2 c., green.
- 4 c., green on red paper.
- 5 c., orange, centre green.
- 10 c., blue, centre purple, on blue paper.
- 20 c., chestnut, centre grey-black.
- 30 c., black, centre green.
- 50 c., magenta, centre green.
- 1 dol., sage-green, centre mauve.
- 2 dols., vermilion, centre grey-black.
- 3 " blue, centre black.
- 5 " green, centre violet.
- 10 " brown, centre black, on blue paper.

India.—We are indebted to Mr. Wilmot Corfield for the following extract from the *Statesman* of India:—

"The following Notification is issued by the Commerce and Finance Department: It has been decided, with the sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of State, to introduce one anna and half anna unified stamps for postal and revenue purposes. The designs for these stamps are at present being prepared, but considerable time will necessarily elapse before the new stamps will be available for sale to the public. The Government of India are, however, of opinion that the introduction of a reform which they have reason to believe will prove acceptable to all classes of the community should not be delayed solely on this account, and they have, therefore, decided that, with effect from 1st October, 1905, the one anna and half anna postage stamps at present in use may be utilised either for postal purposes or for the payment of stamp duty in all cases in which one anna adhesive stamps are required under the provisions of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (II of 1899).

"2. With effect from that date the sale of the present receipt stamps to the public will cease, but these stamps may be used without limit as regards time in payment of all dues for the discharge of which receipt stamps can now be legally employed.

"3. In order to permit of the introduction of this scheme it is necessary that the prohibition which has existed for many years past against the defacement by the public of postage stamps affixed to letters and postal articles should be strictly enforced. The Government of India have given this question their careful consideration, and they are satisfied that no serious inconvenience will be experienced owing to the enforcement of the order. Instructions will, therefore, issue to the effect that from 1st October, 1905, penmarked stamps, or stamps bearing on their faces dates or initials or writing of any kind, will not be accepted by the Post Office in payment of postage."

Italy.—*Provisional.*—The current 20cent. stamp has been received with the surcharge "c. 15" in black, necessitated by the reduction of the inland postage from 20 c. to 15 c.



Provisional.
15 c. on 20 c., orange.

The *Daily Telegram*, of Lucerne, publishes an article on the coming new issue of Italy:—

"The designs, 14 in number, are novel. In these the King, Victor Emmanuel, is shown in relief, the profile being strongly marked. He is attired in the undress uniform of an Italian General. The most

interesting stamp of the series depicts sunrise at sea on one side (which is to be considered as the apotheosis of the beautiful lines written by Annunzio on the terrible tragedy of Monza), and on the other shows the young Monarch returning from an Oriental cruise and landing on his native soil in deepest mourning for his murdered sire. Other designs represent national emblems such as an Alpine scene, a vessel ploughing its way through the sea, the arms of Italy, the Cross of Savoy, Italy's scientific developments, including even the installation of radiography. The latter will be the one centesima stamps."

Norway.—The *Birmingham Daily Post* says: "It is stated that the Norwegian postal authorities have invited competition in designs for new postage stamps. The judges will be five in number—a philatelist selected by the Christiania Philatelic Society by special request of the authorities, an artist, and a Post Office official, supplemented by two more judges elected by the Post Office."

Switzerland.—Our publishers very kindly send us a block of four of the stamps showing the new watermark very clearly. It is an outline of the simple plain, familiar cross of the Arms of Switzerland as displayed on the shield of the current stamps. It is printed multiple fashion all over the sheet, including the margins.

Turkey.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, send us a new issue of stamps for this progressive country. The design is somewhat similar to that of the current series. The stamps are printed on a thin semi-transparent paper, and they are very roughly perforated.

Perf.

- 5 paras, yellow-brown.
- 10 " green.
- 20 " carmine.
- 1 piastre, blue.
- 2 piastres, slate-blue.
- 2½ " mauve.
- 5 " brown.
- 10 " red-brown.
- 25 " olive.
- 50 " violet.

Transvaal.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* says: "A rumour reaches us to the effect that the current set is to be changed. It will probably be replaced by a set of which each value is printed in a single colour. If so, are we right in supposing that the plates will be changed? With the old plates two operations are absolutely necessary to the stamps. A great saving of expense would be effected if the stamps could be printed at one operation."

Victoria.—We have received from our publishers the first of the Australian stamps upon which we may term the Commonwealth paper watermarked Crown and A—the current one penny of Victoria.



Wmk. Crown and A. Perf.
1d., rose-red.

MISCELLANEOUS

The New Commonwealth Stamp

THE late Postmaster-General, Mr. Sydney Smith, before his Government met with defeat, called for designs for a one penny stamp for use in the Commonwealth. A blank space is to be left in the design for the insertion of each State. Why only one value has been picked out is rather difficult to explain, unless it is to specially meet the postal rate to New Zealand, and probably one penny rate to Great Britain. In view of what transpired at the recent conference of a deputation of members of the Sydney Philatelic Club with the P.M.G. the calling of designs for one value only, and from local artists, shows that the views of a deputation have not met with much consideration. It was pointed out by Mr. Basset Hull that there was not much time in hand to prepare for a Commonwealth issue that would be a credit to the department. There can be little urged against calling for designs from local artists, but the afterwork, engraving, could not be satisfactorily done in Australia, if steel plates were to be used, and for the printing of the stamps from steel plates only one Government printing office, that of Sydney, had a machine that could do the work satisfactorily. We have no idea whether the present P.M.G., Mr. Chapman, takes any interest in Philately. He does not, then the Sydney Philatelic Club has an uphill fight in front of it, for the Secretary of the Post Office, Mr. Scott, has not the slightest sympathy with philately.

Australian Philatelist.

J. L. Chew, J.P.

MR. CHEW is a well-known solicitor practising in the north of England. He resides at Hankelow Court, Laffordshire, and is a Justice of the Peace for the Counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, and Staffordshire. His first acquaintance with stamps was made in his schoolboy days in the early sixties; and even in those days Mr. Chew used a blank album for his stamps, a collection which we understand he still retains.

Upon leaving school in 1863 for the purpose of being articled, he gave up collecting, and did not touch the fever again until some thirteen years ago, since which time, on and off, he has been keen upon Great Britain and British Colonials, unused. Commencing when he did, he was perhaps wise in the determination not to attempt to collect Australia, New Zealand, or Mauritius; and by thus eliminating these he restricted his field of operations to one which he thought he could encompass. He is particularly strong in British East Africa, British Central Africa, and British South Africa, and has a fine lot of Uganda, specially of the second issue, and Heligoland in native sheets, whilst his Zanzibar and West African colonies are very good.

Being distinctly a member of what is known as the Manchester School, his collection including innumerable entire sheets, some of which, particularly the provisional surcharges on the Sierra Leone issue of 1897, have proved of much assistance to the London Society in the compilation of Part III of Africa.

Mr. Chew was educated in London, and speaks of the times when he went in his schooldays to a place which was known to him as "Change Alley," situate somewhere near St. Paul's, and where at midday in the dinner-hour some scores of boys and men of all ages were engaged together swapping and selling stamps. In those days (1860 to 1863), he says, it was a recognized rendezvous.

The Philatelic Record.

An Argentine Error

NOR long ago a collector from the Argentine Republic was discoursing of his treasures to a London dealer, and mentioning as the gem of his collection the 5 c., green, error, of the 1892 type. "There are only thirteen copies in existence," he said, "and mine is worth £100." However, according to a well-known writer on Argentine stamps, the number of copies known is not thirteen but thirty-five, and going back further still, to the contemporary record, one learns that even the latter quantity is underestimated. The story was that "one sheet printed in this colour was sold at the Post Office at Montevideo to a business firm, and several were used without being noticed. At last a clerk in the P.O. spotted one on a letter, and promptly sent to the firm which had bought the sheets and secured the remainder, some sixty copies, which were distributed among the principal collectors in the place." As Montevideo is supposed by most people to be in Uruguay and not in Argentina, one is naturally tempted to ask what Argentine stamps were doing in that city. Admitting the truth of this perhaps not very probable tale, it is evident that the estimated value of £100 does not err on the side of moderation. I now learn that a copy belonging to a Spanish dealer was lately put up at auction among some Buenos Aires collectors, and knocked down for £30.

B. T. K. Smith, in the *Philatelic Record*.

The late Mr. E. H. Corbould

THE death, some months ago, at the ripe age of ninety, of Mr. Edward Henry Corbould, R.I., was of interest to stamp collectors, for he was not only the son of the designer of the first British postage stamp, but was himself a stamp designer on more than one occasion. He certainly made the drawing for the profile of Queen Victoria on the first issue of Ceylon. The design, which was on a fairly large scale, was shown at the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890, where it attracted a good deal of admiration. He also, I believe, drew the portrait of the Queen for the early Natal stamps, and his son, Dr. V. Corbould, informs me that he well remembers his father at work on the design of the "coin" 5 shilling stamp of New South Wales (1860), which is not only unique among stamps in its appearance, but is also noticeable for its having been in use for nearly thirty years, an unusually long life for a postage stamp, though considerably outdistanced by that of the 5 pence, green, of the same colony.

B. T. K. Smith, in the *Philatelic Record*.

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of Stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5,000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



JOHN AND VICTORIA WALKED UP AND DOWN THE PLATFORM

CHAPTER XX (continued)

How William, though Betty's creditor, is about to become her debtor.

THE doors were shut, the signal for departure given, and the train began to move. Two heads immediately appeared at the two doors of the saloon.

"John! John!" cried William.

"Victoria!" cried Betty.

The engaged couple, who, lost in talk, had not noticed the movement of the train, turned quickly and caught hold of the brass handles.

"Stand back! stand back!" shouted the porters.

"It is too late."

But all attempts to pull them back were in vain; so tight was their hold on the handles that they would not let go, and, the doors opening, they were able to return to their respective compartments in the midst of the maledictions of the officials, since the train was now going at a good rate. The reprimands they received for their carelessness can be easily imagined. But all's well that ends well, so William returned to the commander.

"You are still feeling ill then?" said he.

"Yes, very ill," groaned the commander, half rising. But at the moment he caught sight of William leaning over him, and in his tie the gold serpent given him by Miss Betty. It was as if he were suddenly hypnotised; his staring eyes seemed unable to detach themselves from the shining jewel.

"What is the matter? What are you looking at?" asked the young American.

"Where—where did you get that pin?"

"Miss Scott, our neighbour here, gave it me."

"I am lost!" stammered the commander, unconscious that he spoke aloud, and in despair he rolled himself again in his rugs.

"Come, come!" said William in a paternal voice "the crisis is nearly over. We are close to Naples and you will soon be at home."

Then the Stamp King, his anxiety growing greater than ever, went to see Miss Betty and ask her advice.

"I do beseech you to come and look at this poor commander," said he. "He is so ill that I fear for his reason. I can't understand it at all. The sight of your pin upsets him so, that it would be well if you could reassure him yourself. Your presence would be sure to do him good."

"Very well," said Miss Betty, rising. "I will come. William half opened the door of communication and said to Spartivento—

"Miss Scott is coming to see you, old fellow."

"No, no!" cried the enigmatic Italian in accents of the profoundest terror. But William had shut the door to give the commander time to prepare for the young lady's visit.

They had passed Velletri, and, running through the mountains, came to Segni, Anagni, the town of Innocent III and Boniface VIII, Ferentino, set upon a height with a belt of Cyclopean walls, then Frasimone magnificently situated, and Aquin, the country of Juvenal and the great St. Thomas.

At length, as the express wound round Mount Cassin, owned by its famous Benedictine monastery, William deemed that the commander would have had time to compose himself, and stood back to let Miss Betty pass first into the neighbouring compartment. But scarcely had the girl opened the door when she fell back with an exclamation of horror and indignation. "What is the matter?" asked William.

"The matter!" exclaimed Betty, not knowing whether she ought to laugh or be angry. "See for yourself."

William, on entering, had no difficulty in discovering the cause of Miss Betty's startled exclamation. For, in the middle of the compartment, Spartivento, in his shirt and without coat or trousers, was staring wildly at him. Ridiculous as the position was, William had

again with a good enough grace. William thought it would be as well not to leave his companion, for he was now convinced that the Italian sun had revived some old infirmity, causing him to fear the presence of a stranger. So he thought he had better try to distract his attention.

"Look," said he, pointing to a smoke in the distance, "there is Vesuvius."

Spartivento threw one careless glance, like a man who knows the country better than his companion, and sat down, with bowed head and preoccupied, though calmer, air.

The train now crossed the Volturmo, stopped a few minutes at Capua, then at Caserta, whose immense castle, the summer residence of the ancient Neapolitan kings, appeared in outline on the left, below its



HE HURRIED TO THE EXIT

no inclination to laugh, fearing that this series of extravagant actions would end in an access of mad fury. So he spoke to him with the utmost gentleness.

"You will catch cold, my dear fellow. It is warm enough, I know, but in a carriage one is always exposed to sudden chills, which are very prejudicial to health. Come, dress yourself again——"

"But suppose the young lady comes back?" questioned the commander.

"That is all the more reason for it. You must make yourself look more respectable."

"But I don't want her to come back."

"She came with the kindest intentions," returned William still more affectionately. "She wanted to help you."

"No, no! I don't want to see her!" cried Spartivento, elevating his voice.

"Very well, you shall not see her. Cheer up and put your clothes on again," said William, handing them to him, and the commander, coaxed by the assurance that his solitude should be respected, dressed

enchanting gardens. Now they ran through the magnificent plains of Campania—plains so fertile and rich that they yield three harvests every year. But the commander appeared too weak to take any interest in the country. Yet when he perceived that the express was passing along the last slopes of Vesuvius he suddenly revived, rolled up his rug, and put on his dust-coat and hat.

"Ah, that is better!" said William, thinking that drawing so near home had completely calmed his fellow-passenger.

"Yes, I feel quite well again now," returned the commander, smiling.

"So much the better! So much the better!"

As William was gathering his things together, Spartivento, watching him out of the corner of his eye, said—

"You will do me the favour of staying with me, my dear Mr. Keniss?"

In vain William protested. As they entered the station at Naples he was compelled to yield and



SPARTIVENTO STARED WILDLY AT WILLIAM

promise to spend two days at least with the commander, at which he appeared greatly pleased. Looking out of the window Spartivento saw a magnificent footman, to whom he beckoned. The footman hastened to the carriage, and, before the train had even stopped, had taken possession of the two travellers' luggage, handed him by his master, who then jumped quickly out, crying: William—

"You get our trunks out, and will wait for you outside with my carriage." Then he disappeared so completely that it would be impossible to say in which direction.

William got out and went to the door of the neighbouring compartment to lend Miss Betty a hand.

"Do you know, I am going to stay with the commander," he said.

"Where is he? Where is he?" asked Betty eagerly.

"Does he interest you to that extent?"

"Where is he, I say? You have not let him go?"

"Why, how excited you are about it!" returned the young man laughingly. "Calm yourself, for it is all right. He is waiting for me outside with his carriage."

"Catch him again, quick! Your portmanteau! Your bags!"

"Yes, but— This is infectious!"

And William mechanically put his hand in his pocket. His pocket-book had disappeared! So had his watch and his purse.

"How very strange!" said he, looking stupefied.

"Run! Oh, do run!" besought Betty. "You might perhaps catch him yet."

A crowd of thoughts and suspicions flashed into William's brain; suspicions and thoughts which were to be but too soon confirmed. He ran to the courtyard. Nothing! No carriage! No footman! No commander! Precipitately he returned to the luggage—searched the waiting-rooms, the douane, the passages. Nothing! No one!

(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee for September on Thursday, September 7th, the following fourteen new members were elected:—

S. W. Wheatley, Newcastle, Staffs; Bertram McGowan, Dumfries; Stewart Kirkpatrick, King William's Town, South Africa; Miss Enid A. Brodie, Birmingham; C. F. Wills, London; S. H. Haynes, Kingston-on-Thames; J. Escoline, Morecambe; Dr. M. Piper-Rietzmann, London; Max Wertheim, London; L. J. Ayre, Barry; Thomas Sweeney, London; Ernest C. Hodgett, Southern Nigeria; G.

Allan Brockman, London; and J. Glassen, Johannesburg.

As the new season commences in October, prospective new members should make application at once to the Hon. Secretary, H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, London, S.W.

Dundee Philatelic Society

DEAR SIR,—I am trying to start a Philatelic Society for Dundee and district. Will you kindly intimate in the *Weekly* that inquiries will be welcomed by

Yours sincerely,

G. H. WHITAKER

(Member Sheffield Philatelic Society).

9, BELLEFIELD AVENUE, DUNDEE,
September 9th.

Philatelic Society of Victoria

President: W. R. Rundell.

Secretary: W. Brettschneider.

Meetings: 128, Russell Street, Melbourne.

12th annual meeting of the above Society was held July 27th at the Rooms, 128, Russell Street, at 8 p.m.

The President, Mr. W. T. Littlewood, occupied the air, and there were twelve members present.

Mr. D. H. Hill, the Hon. Life President, sent an apology for non-attendance, being confined to his bed over four weeks.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and confirmed.

It was proposed and seconded that the report and balance sheet be taken as read and received. The President, in proposing the adoption of the same, congratulated the members on the sound position of the leading Philatelic Society of the Commonwealth.

The proposition for the adoption of the report and balance sheet having been duly seconded, they were unanimously adopted.

The election of office-bearers was the next business transacted, and the result was as follows: President, Mr. W. R. Rundell (Mr. Derrick having withdrawn his nomination in favour of that gentleman); Vice-president, Mr. F. A. Jackson; secretary, treasurer, and exchange superintendent, Mr. W. Brettschneider; Librarian, Mr. L. A. Chester; committee, Messrs. A. Whelen, James Welsh, S. J. Hatch, and N. C. Horwood; auditor, Mr. C. W. Ellis (Mr. A. McDonald having also withdrawn his name from the list in favour of Mr. Ellis).

The newly elected officers having thanked those present for their election, a vote of thanks to the directing officers, with special mention of the secretary, concluded the meeting.

Annual Report

OUR Committee, in presenting the thirteenth annual report and balance sheet, is pleased to state that the Society is in a sound financial position.

During the year seven new members were elected, seven resigned, and one died, there being now sixty-two members, viz. forty-five ordinary, twenty corresponding, and one honorary.

The credit balance is £37. 17s. 2d., which your Committee consider very satisfactory, taking into account that over £4 was expended on binding books and about £6 in furnishings for new room.

Eleven ordinary general meetings were held during the year, at which the attendance was fairly satisfactory.

Ten Committee meetings were held, at which the attendance was as follows: Mr. James Welsh, 10; Mr. L. A. Chester, 9; Mr. W. T. Littlewood, 8; Mr. Whelen, 5; Mr. J. Davis, 4; Mr. W. R. Rundell, 1; Mr. A. J. Derrick, 1; and Mr. W. Brettschneider,

Ten exchange books, containing stamps to the value of £870, were circulated, and twelve books, containing stamps to the value of £1,162, were returned, the sales amounting to £208, averaging about £17 per book.

One book was exchanged with the South Australian Society, and one with the Sydney Philatelic Club, and the Secretary is now in communication with a leading New Zealand society with a like view.

As in years past, the thanks of the Society are again due to Major Outtrim, the Deputy Postmaster-General, for his courtesy in permitting Mr. Rundell to exhibit all the latest issues from the Universal Postal Union.

The thanks of the Society are also due to Messrs. Hagen and Smyth, of Sydney, Stanley Gibbons and Pemberton, of London, and the Scott Stamp and Coin Company, of New York, for donations to the library.

It is pleasing to record that the Society still has the valuable assistance of the Secretary, who is untiring in his efforts to further its advancement.

It may be noticed from the catalogue which has been compiled and is posted up in the rooms, that the following volumes are missing, viz.:—*Gibbons' Monthly*, vol. 9; *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, vols. 1, 2, and 3; *The London Philatelist*, vols. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12; *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, vols. 6 and 7; and *The Philatelic Record*, vols. 1, 2, 3, 5, 11, and 16, which the Committee will be pleased to receive from any member in a position to supply same, as it is its desire to complete the library as far as possible.

(Signed) W. BRETTSCHEIDER,
Hon. Secretary.
W. T. LITTLEWOOD,
President.

| RECEIPTS. | | | EXPENDITURE. | | |
|--|----|-------|--|----|-------|
| | £ | s. d. | | £ | s. d. |
| To cash from 1904. | 30 | 1 6 | By rent | 12 | 0 0 |
| „ „ received from advertisements in Exhibition Catalogue | 8 | 0 0 | „ Journals | 7 | 9 8 |
| „ Subscriptions | 31 | 7 6 | „ Stationery, binding, & printing | 12 | 1 0 |
| „ Sale of Exchange Sheets | 0 | 15 2 | „ Removal to new office | 0 | 15 0 |
| „ Commission on Exchange Books (from 128) | 12 | 1 5 | „ Linoleum, furnishings, etc. . . . | 6 | 10 0 |
| | | | „ Fire insurance | 0 | 5 8 |
| | | | „ Bank account | 0 | 10 0 |
| | | | „ Commission to Exchange Supt. . . . | 5 | 6 4 |
| | | | „ Postages | 5 | 10 0 |
| | | | „ Cash in hand | 37 | 17 2 |
| | 88 | 5 7 | | 88 | 5 7 |
| LIABILITIES. | | | ASSETS. | | |
| | £ | s. d. | | £ | s. d. |
| To capital balance | 89 | 17 2 | By cash in hand | 37 | 17 2 |
| | | | „ Furniture, etc. . . . | 10 | 0 0 |
| | | | „ Stationery | 2 | 0 0 |
| | | | „ Books in Library | 40 | 0 0 |
| | 89 | 17 2 | | 89 | 17 2 |
| (Signed) | | | W. BRETTSCHEIDER, Hon. Treasurer. | | |
| Audited and found correct. | | | (Signed) C. W. ELLIS, F.I.A.V., Hon. Auditor. | | |
| MELBOURNE, 6th July, 1905. | | | | | |

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, 8½×11½ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two uses have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 6d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 6d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 6d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

More Auction Catalogues

SINCE my last note on auction catalogues two more have come to hand—Puttick and Simpson's and Plumridge's.

Puttick's sale comprises some nice things for the Great Moguls to scramble over, especially in Great Britain and British Guiana; a 12d. Canada on laid paper and a Connell 5 c., unused. Also a used set of the four values of the Suez Canal Co., issued in 1870. Special attention is drawn to a copy of an Italian rarity, Estero, 1874, 30 c., brown, variety *with all four corners unaltered*. This variety is stated to be of the greatest rarity, as it is believed that only three copies are known. What will it fetch? I suspect it will go for not a great many more pence than the very much commoner rarity, "Post Office" Mauritius, feiches in pounds.

Cancelled to Order

PUTTICK's list includes a fine lot of the despised cancelled-to-order series of "Postal Fiscals" of Victoria high values ranging from 2s. 6d. to £100. Is there any collector who would prefer to pay £100 for the unused £100 postal fiscal rather than a few pounds for a cancelled-to-order copy? In this case I fancy most of us would forgo our objections to the "cancelled to order rubbish." Even "rubbish" has its uses sometimes.

Australians

CONSIDERING the long lists of Australians in our catalogues, and the rising popularity of these stamps one would expect to see numerous lots on offer in our auctions. But instead of that being the case, they are almost conspicuous by their absence. Why is it? Are the Great Moguls cornering the market in Australians?

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

R. M. S. (Edinburgh).—Your Orange River Colony F instead of E, and Transvaal with a comma, are probably defective types. We know of no such clear genuine errors. Gibbons' warning as to forgeries of Mafekings applies to all values. "Surfaced" refers to papers with a highly glazed surface, generally with a preparation of chalk. "Unsurfaced" means ordinary surface paper. You can get a copy of No. 3 of *G. S. W.*, from Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C., for 3d. The less you attempt in the way of cleaning the better, especially in the case of modern stamps. Many stamps are now printed in aniline colours, which will not even stand wetting, to say nothing of the wash-tub. Most of the older stamps will stand washing. For them we generally use a lather of Sunlight soap.

E. B. (Slough).—The 3d. Transvaal E.R.I., *used*, is catalogued in the latest Gibbons at 9d. Best country to collect? In November we are going to have a series of special articles on the best countries to collect, which will help you to make your own choice.

A Gibbonsite (London Bridge).—From your calling attention to the fact that it would take us seven years to get through the countries of the world at our pace, we naturally inferred that you wished the pace accelerated.

The 7 cents of Canada, Queen's Head, maple leave and figures type, is priced in the latest Gibbons at 6d. unused and 4d. used. It does not exist in the maple leaves in four corners series. It is not a very common stamp.

C. L. (Halifax).—Yes, specialists make two sets of the first issue of China, one on thin paper and the other on thick paper, but the difference is not very pronounced, and you had better not bother about it as a general collector. Here, however, are the full list and prices of the two varieties from the latest Gibbons:—

AUG., 1878. Type 1. *No wmk. Perf. 12½.*

| | | Unused. | | Used. | |
|------------------------|--------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| (a) <i>Thin paper.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 cand., | yellow-green . . . | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| 1 " | green . . . | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 3 " | vermilion . . . | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 5 " | orange . . . | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 5 " | pale orange . . . | 5 | 0 | 10 | 1 |

| | | Unused. | | Used. | |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| (b) <i>Thicker paper.</i> | | | | | |
| 1 cand., | green . . . | 3 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 1 " | deep green . . . | 5 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 " | brown-red . . . | 3 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 " | vermilion . . . | 12 | 6 | 1 | 0 |
| 5 " | yellow . . . | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6 |

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

SEPTEMBER, 1905

25. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—How to increase the membership, opened by A. Moffatt; Display—British South Africa and Persia.
26 & 27. Auction: Puttick & Simpson, 47 Leicester Square.
28 & 29. Auction: Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, Strand, London.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 14

30 SEPTEMBER, 1905

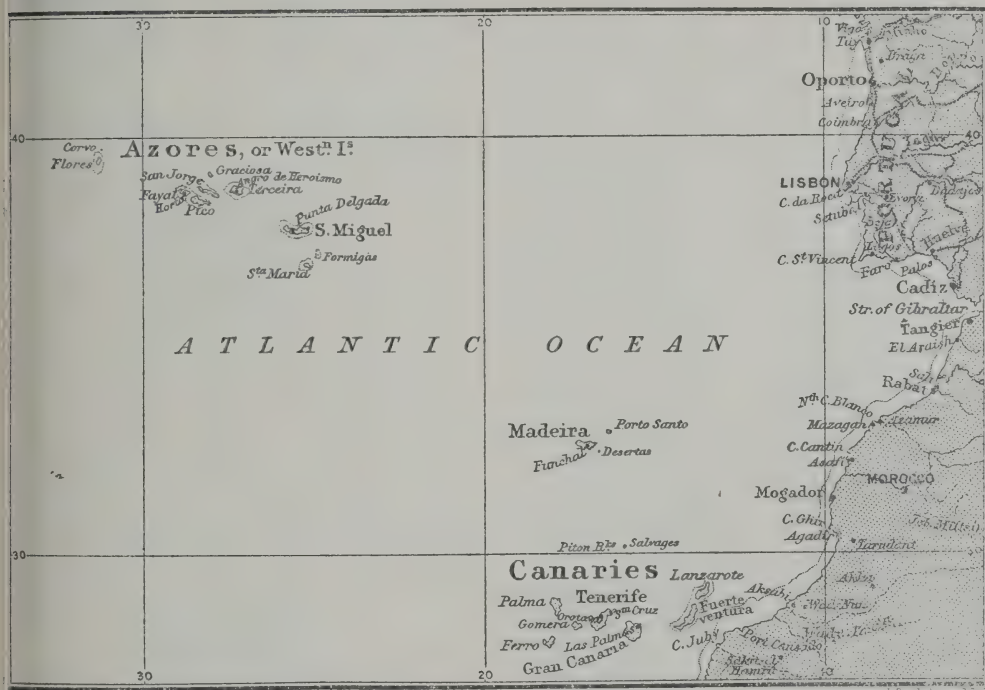
VOL. II.

Whole No. 39

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Azores



FOR our philatelic convenience our Gibbons places the Azores under the general heading of Portuguese Colonies. Nevertheless, the Azores are not treated as a colony by the mother country: they are administered as an integral part of Portugal.

The islands lie in the mid-Atlantic, nearly 800 miles from the nearest coast of Portugal.

The archipelago comprises three distinct groups of islands. In the north-west are Flores and Corvo; in the south-east Sta Maria and São Miguel, and between these two groups lies the largest group of Terceira, São Jorge, Pico, Graciosa, and Fayal.

When Portugal discovered and annexed the islands, in 1431-53, they were uninhabited; now they are densely popu-

lated, though of late years the population has been steadily declining. The following table gives some idea of the relative importance of the various members of the group:—

| Island. | Square miles. | Population. | Max. altitude. |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|
| Sta Maria . | 38 ... | 5880 ... | 1889 |
| São Miguel . | 299 ... | 107,000 ... | 3854 |
| Terceira . . | 164 ... | 45,391 ... | 3435 |
| Graciosa . . | 24 ... | 8718 ... | — |
| São Jorge . . | 91 ... | 18,000 ... | — |
| Pico | 173 ... | 27,904 ... | 7613 |
| Fayal | 69 ... | 26,264 ... | — |
| Flores | 54 ... | 10,700 ... | 3087 |
| Corvo | 7 ... | 1000 ... | — |

In the island of São Miguel is a volcano crater known as Lagoa das Sete Cidades, which being translated means the Lake of the Seven Cities. It contains four lagoons, and some legend presumably credits it with having swallowed up seven cities.

The islands are volcanic, and have suffered from many severe earthquakes, the last serious one being in 1841. Hot mineral springs abound. The coast is described by geographers as generally steep and rugged. The soil is fertile and the climate healthy, but there is no good harbour.

For the information of stamp cataloguers I may mention the fact that geographically the Azores are regarded as belonging to Europe, not to Africa, as they are generally classified in stamp catalogues.

They derive their name from the acores or hawks found there.

Why we philatelists persist in spelling it Azores I cannot understand, for it is the Spanish spelling of the word, the Portuguese being "Acores," as on the stamps, and when we speak of the group we speak of it as a Portuguese possession, and should therefore use the Portuguese spelling. Still, we err in a numerous company, for Azores is the generally accepted spelling.

Its Philatelic History

Philatelically the Azores are the oldest of the Portuguese possessions. The first issue dates back to 1868, some years before any other colony or possession was provided with stamps.

The stamps of the Azores are, from start to finish, reproductions, in their turn, of the current stamps of Portugal, overprinted with the word ACORES.

In 1892 the stamps of the Azores were

superseded by separate issues for the administrative districts of Angra, Horta and Ponta Delgada.

1868. Six values of the current stamps of Portugal, overprinted ACORES, in black. Design: embossed head of Dom Luis on tablets with curved ends. Imperforate. All scarce and expensive, unused at present.



| | Imperf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------|---------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 r., black | . . . | — | — |
| 10 r., yellow | . . . | — | — |
| 20 r. bistre | . . . | 20 0 | 20 0 |
| 50 r., green | . . . | 30 0 | 20 0 |
| 80 r., orange | . . . | 20 0 | 20 0 |
| 100 r., lilac | . . . | 25 0 | 25 0 |

1868-70. Same type, nine values. Surcharge in carmine on the 5 r., but in black on all other values. Perforated.

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 r., black | . . . | 3 0 | 4 0 |
| 10 r., yellow | . . . | 10 0 | 12 6 |
| 20 r. bistre | . . . | 5 0 | 6 0 |
| 25 r., rose | . . . | 7 6 | 0 9 |
| 50 r., green | . . . | 17 6 | 17 6 |
| 80 r., orange | . . . | 35 0 | 30 0 |
| 100 r., lilac | . . . | 35 0 | 30 0 |
| 120 r., blue | . . . | 20 0 | 8 0 |
| 240 r., mauve | . . . | 35 0 | 30 0 |

1871-6. Nine values. Design: embossed head of Dom Luis; tablets with straight ends. Overprinted ACORES, in carmine on the 5 reis, on the rest in black. Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 r., black | . . . | 1 0 | — |
| 10 r., yellow | . . . | 3 0 | — |
| 15 r., brown | . . . | 0 9 | 2 0 |
| 20 r. bistre | . . . | 7 6 | 10 0 |
| 25 r., rose | . . . | 1 6 | 0 9 |
| 50 r., green | . . . | 6 0 | 5 0 |

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 80 r., orange | 12 0 | 10 0 |
| 100 r., lilac | 10 0 | 4 0 |
| 120 r., blue | 15 0 | 12 0 |
| 150 r., „ | 20 0 | — |
| 240 r., lilac | — | — |
| 300 r., „ | 3 0 | 5 0 |

1879-80. Three values, same type, but change of colours. Perforated.

| Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 10 r., green | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 50 r., blue | 25 0 | 6 0 |
| 150 r., yellow | 5 0 | 6 0 |

1880-1. Three values. Three types. Design: head of Dom Luis in profile. The embossed type was now abandoned on the score of expense, and the stamps were photographed. Perforated.



| Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 r., black | 1 6 | 2 0 |
| 25 r., mauve | 2 0 | 1 0 |
| 50 r., blue | 15 0 | 3 0 |

1882. One value. Design: portrait of Dom Luis, three-quarter face turned to right, overprinted ACORES in black.



| Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 25 r., brown | 0 6 | 0 6 |

1882-5. Eight values. Design: same type as the issue of 1871-6; overprinted in very small type, in carmine on the 5 reis, and 1000 r., and in black on the other values. Perforated.



| Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 10 r., green | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 15 r., brown | 2 0 | 4 0 |
| 20 r., bistre | 1 3 | 2 0 |
| 20 r., carmine | 15 0 | — |
| 80 r., orange | 2 6 | 2 6 |
| 100 r., blue | 1 0 | 0 9 |
| 150 r., „ | £8 | £6 |
| 150 r., yellow | 1 6 | 2 0 |
| 300 r., mauve | 15 0 | — |
| 1000 r., black | 10 0 | 10 0 |

1883-7. Six values. Design: portrait of Dom Luis turned to right.



| Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 5 r., grey | 0 3 | 0 4 |
| 10 r., green | 0 2 | 0 4 |
| 20 r., rose | 0 4 | — |
| 25 r., brown | 0 3 | 0 1 |
| 50 r., blue | 0 6 | 0 3 |
| 500 r., black | 4 6 | 3 6 |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

WATERMARKS

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 197.)

How to Distinguish Watermarks

THE watermark in unused stamps can generally be at once detected by holding the stamp so that the light falls on the back. The design of the watermark consists of lines in which, as a rule, the paper is thinner than in the rest of the stamp. Consequently the watermarked portion is less opaque, and offers less resistance to the passage of light rays through the paper. In other words, it is more transparent, and can therefore be seen by holding the paper up to the light.

Unfortunately there are many stamps, especially those which have seen service through the post, which defy this easy mode of detecting the watermark. Various devices have, therefore, to be adopted before the required result can be arrived at. I tabulate them here in the order which will be found of greatest service in the more difficult cases.

1. Turn the stamp through various angles, so that rays of light catch the back of the stamp in different positions.
2. Lay the stamp down on a dark surface, e.g. the sleeve of a black coat.
3. Look through the stamp with its face held near a good light.
4. Dip the stamp into clean water. Then take it out and examine it. If this fails, wet the stamp again and watch it during the whole process of drying.
5. In extreme cases, a method, for

the knowledge of which I am indebted to Major E. B. Evans's Glossary, entitled *Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, may be tried. Soak the stamp in benzine and lay it face down on a dark surface. Evaporation quickly sets in. The stamp is soon dry again, and most stamps will be lit, if any, the worse for the experiment.

6. The "P. O. P." method has already been fully described by Mr. George Jarnum in the pages of *G. S. W.* I refer the reader to Vol. I, p. 185.

But a word of warning is needed. Let the young collector take careful note that many stamps are spoiled by wetting the design. It has already been mentioned that the recent issues of Great Britain and her colonies are printed in inks which are soluble in water. These, and other examples given on page 57, Vol. I, must not be submitted to any process which entails the wetting of the design.

Forgeries of Watermarks

Such forgeries can scarcely be said to have any existence. As the watermark is part and parcel of the making of the paper, it follows that a watermark could only be forged by acquiring the machinery and appliances necessary for the making of the paper. Now a stamp-design might be forged by a single individual, but paper-making requires several hands. Besides, it would be an extremely difficult matter to make a paper which would in all resemble the special kind of paper which the postal authorities use.

ALBUMS

By REV. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

IN opening up the subject of Albums, let me, by way of preface, quote some words of advice given by that veteran among stamp collectors, the Editor of the *Monthly Journal*, Major E. B. Evans, on the occasion of his opening the Exhibition of the Junior Philatelic Society of London in February last. This is what he said: "I would strongly recommend all collec-

tors to commence by collecting the stamps of all countries; and that partly because a general collection is far more interesting to others than a strictly limited one, but principally because I think that a collector should strive to gain a general knowledge of stamps before attempting to specialize."

Now this advice comes from one who

knows. In fact, what Major Evans does know about stamps and their collection is not worth knowing. It remains, therefore, for the beginner to profit by the advice, which, by the way, is also the generally expressed opinion of vast numbers of philatelists. And, in proportion to the heed which the beginner takes, will his difficulties with regard to the album question be narrowed down and for the most part removed. Granted then that our budding philatelist has made up his mind, for a time at least, to collect the stamps of the world, what kind of album will be found most suitable for such a collection? The albums available may be classified as follows :—

1. The Ruled and Limited Album.
2. The Illustrated Album.
3. The Blank Album.

As each of these forms of album has many admirers, I can only outline their merits, point out their excellencies or deficiencies, and leave the reader to judge for himself as to which is most likely to suit his own ideas and, what is all-important, his own pocket.

The Ruled and Limited Album

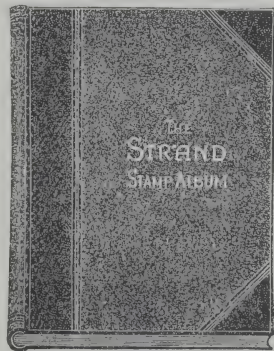
Such an album has its pages divided into rectangles. The best of the kind have these rectangles varying in size, so as to accommodate stamps of different size and shape. Particulars relating to each country are given at the head of the page or pages devoted to the stamps thereof. Maps, containing the names of stamp-issuing countries, add greatly to the usefulness of such an album. Cards are inserted here and there, so that, when a goodly array of stamps crosses within, the covers shall be level and not bulged.

The price of such an album, capable of holding from 8,000 to 12,000 stamps, varies from half a crown to half a guinea, according to paper and binding. The beginner of tender years cannot do better than become the happy possessor of an

album of this kind. My first collection adorned, or, to tell the plain truth, disfigured the pages of one of these some twenty years ago. Since then I have bought many albums more suited to my growing wants, but none have given me greater pleasure than this "battered and torn" receptacle of my early treasures. Many stamps are still sticking to its pages, and have defied all my efforts to remove them without injury. They were gummed in, for my knowledge of mounting was nil in those days. And there they must remain, recalling sweet memories of youth not unmixed with regret at the thought of countless opportunities neglected, for shillings then would buy scores of stamps which now cost pounds.

A truce to sentiment! Let me hark back to my theme. What were the deficiencies of this album? The main deficiency was due to the ruling of spaces for stamps on both sides of the page. Stamps so mounted face each other when the album is closed, and are therefore apt to catch and tear one another when the album is opened. But what would you? The price forbids the provision of spaces on one side of the page only. And the difficulty can be overcome by interleaving the album with sheets of tissue paper gummed in or fastened by means of stamp mounts. *Hoc opus, hic labor est.*

An illustration of an album similar to the one described above is here given.



(To be continued.)

A SPLENDID START. THE FINEST PACKET.

Packet No. 67, 1000 varieties. This packet contains 1000 different Stamps (and no Envelopes, Bands, and Cds), and is the cheapest packet ever offered by S. G., Ltd., satisfaction being absolutely guaranteed. The price it is offered at is the lowest ever quoted for such a collection, embracing as it does scores of scarce varieties, provisionals, new issues, and many very fine and obsolete varieties. 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

WHAT STAMPS TO BUY

By ONE WHO KNOWS

Introductory

IT has been suggested to me that I should contribute an occasional page to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* on "Stamps to Buy"—in vulgar parlance, tips.

I am always prowling about amongst the dealers, hunting for bargains for my collection and for needful stamps for gaps here and there, and in this way, and in others which I need not mention here, I acquire more information than most people of what may be termed "stocks in sight," and not unfrequently I get peeps behind the scenes.

It may therefore be useful to some of my friends who are readers of *G. S. W.* if I now and again, as the opportunity offers, put them up to a wrinkle or two in time to secure copies of stamps the supplies of which are running short.

No Speculation

It is not my purpose to help the speculator in any way. On the contrary, I would earnestly warn my young friends in particular, and collectors in general, against yielding to the temptation to speculate in buying up numbers of stamps they do not need for their collections. Very few collectors are so placed as to be able to speculate safely in buying up large numbers of stamps, and the dealer who knows the available best is rarely tempted to overstock himself.

What Might Have Been

We can all see after the event how we could have done a little safe speculation, how the copies we might have bought for a few pence can now be sold for shillings, and a few for pounds.

But, generally speaking, more people burn their fingers than make money by speculations in stamps.

The 4½d. English stamp was a case in point. I know a lot of people who thought themselves very knowing, who bought pane after pane of these stamps wherever they could find them after the announcement of the discontinuance of the value.

The speculators did not give themselves

time to reflect that dealers had plenty of time to buy supplies for future use, and were not at all likely to neglect the opportunity.

What is the result?

The speculators have burnt their fingers. The stamp has not bounded up in price and is not at all likely to for many years. It is said one speculator was very pleased to clear out of £12 worth at face.

How to Invest

The safest and best way to invest in stamps is to make a wise choice of an established favourite country, and then to collect that country straightforwardly. *Unused* only for safe investment. Do not buy sheets or large lots for speculation outside your actual collection.

If you get reliable information of the coming scarcity of any stamp and you have the opportunity of buying, you may add pairs or blocks of four to your collection, not more.

Pairs and blocks enrich any collection and if prices rise you can realize without spoiling your collection, and if prices remain low you will retain the decorative pairs and blocks.

Mark down these limitations and stick to them, and then you may take my word for it that you are not likely to have reason to complain that stamp collecting is a snare and a delusion from the investment point of view.

Buy Seychelles

Now for a tip or two.

Some time ago Seychelles, to everybody's surprise, began surcharging King Heads. They wanted some 3 c. value of which the supply was exhausted. They started by surcharging the 15 c. "3 cents." The speculators collared the lot.

Then they surcharged the 45 c. King Head in the same way, and in order to checkmate the greedy speculators who infest Seychelles, the postal authorities limited the number of copies to be supplied to any person at a time, and when the daily sale reached four hundred stamps was stopped.

These restrictions crippled not only the speculators, but all the regular dealers,

1900 series the 36 c., 75 c., and 1 r. are all getting scarce.

Johore

To those who go in for Johore, I would say don't delay in getting a copy of the \$1 of the 1892-4 series if you lack it. There were not many printed, and of those printed the majority was used up for a subsequently issued provisional 3 c.



3 cents

and the consequence is that to-day the supplies are so far exhausted that prices must go up before very long.

This "3 cents" on 45 c., King's Head, priced 6d. in the current Gibbons, and I saw a few in the Gibbons stock book last week, but I doubt if there will be a copy left by the end of October, and I further doubt their having any stock to call back on. So I should not be surprised to find this stamp trebled or more in price in the next Gibbons.

Ergo, if you want one for your collection, buy now.

I may add that of the Seychelles 1897-



I understand that Gibbons were fortunate in securing a good supply, and of course their supply may enable them to keep the price where it is for another edition of the Catalogue. All the same, if you want the stamp for your collection, buy it at its present price of 4s., or cheaper if you can get it.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

by CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Beginning of the Season

WE are now getting into the hum of the beginning of another season of philatelic activity. The auctioneer has started plying his hammer, and our secretaries are posting their programmes of meetings for 1905-6.

The general opinion seems to be strongly in favour of the strong belief that if no unforeseen disturbance interferes we shall have a really good season, if not something approaching a "boom."

Certainly everything is in favour of a good season, if not of a boom. Peace has been signed between Russia and Japan, and as a consequence trade must revive; and if trade revives the stamp business will benefit.

Then, above all, we shall be hustling all through the winter preparing for the forthcoming Exhibition. The Great Moguls, and the little ones too, will be sending "Want Lists" right and left, and filling up blanks and gaps here, there, and everywhere.

The Juniors—Old and Young

THE old young 'uns, and the young old 'uns of the Junior Philatelic Society have drawn up a most imposing programme for the new season.

It's fortunate that it meets on Saturday evenings, and therefore does not clash with the meetings of the premier society, or there might be trouble at 4, Southampton Row.

I have never been to one of the Juniors' meetings yet, but I intend to look in this season. All the other old fogies seem to be renewing their youth in that direction.

The Stamp Trade

THERE used to be a time when the Stamp Trade prided itself upon the fact that it was practically unaffected by any general depression in trade. It relied upon the fact that most of the big collectors were men of independent means who were not affected by depressions of trade.

That day has passed for the Stamp

Trade. Stamp dealers have suffered with other trades in the depression through which we have been passing, and for the simple reason that stamp collecting is no longer confined so largely to men of independent means.

Merchants, bankers, lawyers, managers of businesses, and large numbers of others engaged in trade, have succumbed to the fascinations of our hobby; and as they suffer from the depression in trade, so they limit their expenditure on such luxuries as stamp collecting.

Pillar Boxes

I AM indebted to the kindness of Mrs. Forrest, of Liverpool, for the following interesting bit of information concerning the introduction of pillar boxes:—

Cheltenham was the first town in England to have a pillar box for the posting of letters.

A clergyman named Charlton, and a Captain Carter, when touring in Brussels, saw a pillar box being erected there. When they returned home to Cheltenham they brought the matter before the postal authorities, who soon afterwards caused a dozen such boxes to be erected in that town. After this the system was speedily carried out through the United Kingdom.

Denmark

So the rumour that the portrait of the King of Denmark upon the new issue was to be withdrawn is, after all, a bogey. The new stamps with the portrait are coming out, and we have now five values of the series.

But I cannot believe that such unsatisfactory stamps will have a long life. They are badly engraved, and miserably printed in wretched colours.

The portrait from which the stamps are designed has the appearance of having been a good one, but the engraver has given it a poor setting and the printer has completed the wreck.

The New Greece

WHO wanted a new set of Greek stamps? Nobody, surely, but revenue-seekers, and I fancy the issue will fall as flat as such an obvious official speculation deserves.

The eye-opener in one of our monthly Reviews as to the neediness and greediness of the Royal Family of Greece was not pleasant reading, but it may afford an explanation why we are to have another

speculative and unnecessary series of Greek stamps rammed down our philatelic throats.

They are wanted to grease the wheel of the Grecian revenue.

Government Stamp Presents

MR. A. H. DAVIS writes from Monte video as follows:—

In a recent issue of your paper you mentioned two cases of entire collections being presented by the Government of one State to that of another. It may interest your readers to know that the Government of the Argentine Republic also presented Queen Margherita of Italy with a collection of Argentine stamps towards the end of last year. As you are probably aware, there are thousands of Italians in these South American Republics.

I think I shall send the hat around on my own account to some of those kindly disposed Governments very soon. I could be very grateful for similar benefits.

The Exhibition

WE are beginning to talk of the forthcoming International Philatelic Exhibition as "*the Exhibition*." But we have not got that Programme yet.

However, I am in a position to say that it won't be long now, that it really and truly will be out before Christmas, and may come as a surprise packet early in October.

It will be an interesting study from many points of view. The grouping and ranking of countries will, no doubt, present a few surprises, especially as the verdict will represent the combined opinion of the most experienced amongst our leading collectors and the shrewdest of our dealers.

The First Entry

The first entry has already been made for the Exhibition, and Prince Edward of Wales claims the honour and credit of having made it.

He is a sharp and enthusiastic young collector, and he has the courage of his philatelic choice, for he has entered his collection of French Colonials.

Fancy a young collector tackling French Colonials! But he is a philatelic son of a philatelic father, and that makes all the difference.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Brazil.—This country has commenced to print its stamps on watermarked paper. We have received from our publishers a block of four of the current 200 reis with margins attached, from which we gather that the watermark is composed of the words "Inidos" and "Brazil" repeated on alternate lines in letters about three-parts of the height of the stamps.



Wmk. "Inidos Brazil." Perf.
200 reis, blue.

Northern Nigeria.—Mr. W. H. Regan informs *Even's Weekly Stamp News* that he has seen the 1d. value on multiple CA paper. This is the first of the multiples from this colony.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.
1d., purple and carmine.

Tasmania.—We quote the following somewhat unexpected announcement from the *Melbourne Argus*:—

"Philatelists place a special value upon West Australian and Tasmanian postage stamps, because they depict local scenery. It appears, however, that when the existing issues of these stamps are exhausted, no more will be struck off. A promise was



made to the Federal Parliament that the King's Head should be printed on all Australian stamps, and the picturesque stamps issued in the States mentioned will therefore be withdrawn in favour of the conventional design which is printed in the other States of the Union."

Obviously if the present supplies of the current picture stamps of Tasmania are to make way when exhausted for the Commonwealth issue, that issue will have to be ready much earlier than present appearances seem to warrant.

MISCELLANEOUS

Recent Fijian Stamps

It has been reported in various American and Continental journals that the recent issue of Fijian stamps were procurable postmarked to order. We at once came to the conclusion that the information was absolutely untrue, as the postal authorities in Fiji, we thought, would never lend themselves to such shady business. Our inquiries have not proved the truth of our conclusions, and they have also brought to light certain facts which probably caused the journals in question to make their statement.

Some little time ago our publisher was offered an unbroken sheet of each value, 1d. to 5s., every stamp lightly postmarked, and the original gum on it untouched. The explanation given was that a merchant had invested in these stamps, and, to enhance their value, had them postmarked. He asked face value, but was prepared to accept less. Being desirous to find out if these stamps were sold postmarked to order by the authorities, as the foreign journals alleged, we wrote to the Colonial Postmaster at Suva, asking if such was the case, also the prices at which they could be obtained. Before the reply reached us we were informed that several lots had been offered in Sydney by Melbourne dealers. In one instance the values tallied exactly with the sheets offered to our publisher (1d. to 5s.). The lot offered in Sydney did not include the 4d.

The reply we received from the Colonial Postmaster at Suva was as follows: "I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, and in reply I have to inform you that the report with regard to postmarked sets of obsolete stamps being issued is unfounded. If you apply to Mr. —, of Suva, he will be able to furnish you with the information you ask for, regarding price of Fiji stamps, etc."

The gentleman mentioned in the letter was communicated with. From his reply we learn that a certain firm purchased 105 full sets and sent them to Sydney, but recalled them as he was offered such a ridiculously low price. He was now prepared to sell them at 3s. 6d. per set, although some four weeks previously he asked 7s. 9d. (face value of the set). Meanwhile the Melbourne dealers are offering the sets at prices varying between the two first quoted.

What we do not know as yet, and what we want to know, is this: Since the Fijian authorities deny the issue of the postmarked sets, how is it that these sets get on to the market postmarked in sheets, and offered at less than half face value?

The Australian Philatelist.

On Buying New Issues

MANY collectors endeavour to bring their albums up to a certain point, discarding all later issues, but for some reason or another we note that they always make exceptions. One country issues part of a set of stamps within the prescribed limits, and the remainder one or two years later, and, of course, it would not do to have only half the set. Another makes an exception to some pet country, and, as a rule, gradually keeps taking on more until he finds himself hustling to make up lost time and march with the band wagon. We should strongly advise our friends never to let the various issues get ahead of them. Buy immediately the stamps are issued; it is certain that they will never be cheaper, and at least one in ten is sure to get rare—which ones we do not know, but short issues and unforeseen accidents are continually happening, with consequent rapid advance in price. It is bad enough to have to pay high prices for old issues, but it is

particularly mortifying to find yourself paying five times the amount your friend purchased at a few months ago. No one can make a mistake in buying all new issues as they appear—when they can be purchased at a trifle over cost. The utmost loss on such stamps would be ten per centum, and the probable gain five times that amount.

Metropolitan Philatelist, U.S.

Sold out of Halfpenny Stamps!

THE following is extracted from the *Swindon Evening Advertiser* of 26 August last:—

"A strange occurrence happened in Swindon last Friday evening, when a gentleman stated that he entered the Bath Road Post Office, and asking for a halfpenny stamp was informed that the 'firm' had sold out. It appeared there had been a phenomenal rush on those stamps during the day."

Mr. Vivian Miles, to whom we are indebted for the cutting, points out that the Bath Road P.O. is one of the head offices in the district!

Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

The Wily Hindoo

THE native messenger of India is a curious character. His collecting propensities are wonderful, and the postage stamps upon letters entrusted to him to post at one time appealed to him as no inconsiderable trifles. By those who are strangers to our hobby we have heard this individual quoted as an illustration of a philatelist, but from this we have always vigorously dissented on more grounds than one. He is not particular as to the condition of his stamps, and although he may be fairly described as a specialist in unused, original gum to him presents no special virtue, it being quite sufficient so long as the stamps are fairly fresh in appearance to warrant their being sold again for postal purposes. That he is a type of stamp collector nobody will deny, and least of all those who have had the fortune to live any time in India.

To combat this tendency on the part of the natives, the practice of penstroking the stamps after they have been affixed to the envelope has been in common use in India for many years, and has been found to be very efficacious, for in common with most stamp collectors the natives draw the line at penmarked specimens, hence they have been left severely alone and the recipients have been denied the pleasure of paying double postage on delivery.

We see that the privilege has been withdrawn, and that henceforth no penmarking is to be allowed. It remains to be seen whether the present generation of native messengers have inherited their fathers' love for unused stamps; if so, we may confidently look forward to a set of unpaid letter stamps in the near future—and who will venture to characterize such an issue as unnecessary?—*Philatelic Record.*

Ingoldsby on Mulreadies

A SET of those odd-looking envelope things, Where Britannia (who seems to be crucified) flings To her right and her left, funny people with wings Amongst elephants, Quakers, and Catabaw kings, And a taper and wax, and small Queen's-heads in packs,

Which when notes are too big you must stick on their backs.

Ingoldsby Legends.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XX (continued)

How William, though Betty's creditor, is about to become her debtor.

WHEN William at length returned to Betty, breathless, furious, and discomfited, he found her laughing heartily.

"Well, and did you find the commander's carriage?" asked she.

"Oh, you do well to spend your time laughing!" returned William. "There is no carriage there. I have been robbed!"

"Then you acknowledge it, imprudent man! It seems to me, too, that I have seen that head somewhere before."

"What! you knew him, and you never told me?"

"Pardon me," said Betty, who had the greatest difficulty to keep from laughing. "I knew no Luigi Spartivento. I only knew Sir Oscar Tilbury."

"What!" cried William, quite beside himself. "That was——"

"Yes, my friend, Sir Oscar himself, of whom I have spoken to you, and whom I am quite sure I recognize now from the way he has of arranging meetings with people at the different towns he comes to."

"Well, what shall I do? I haven't a cent left. Not even enough to stamp a letter or prove my identity. But that servant who was waiting for him?"

"You are simple! These people, these cosmopolitan thieves, have all sorts of accomplices. I know all about them, having paid dearly enough for the knowledge. But come, I offer you the use of my carriage, which will only be a hired one, but which has the one good quality of being in existence. Will you come——?"

"But——" objected William hesitatingly.

"Bah! One must yield to circumstances. I am only showing you a little ordinary politeness, and you have no choice in the matter. Come and dine with me, anyhow, and we shall see what will happen afterwards."

There was nothing for it but resignation. William and John followed Betty and Victoria into a large landau which they happened to find disengaged, and which conducted them by way of the quays, the Strada S. Lucia, the Piazza del Municipio, S. Ferdinand and the Plebiscito and the Villa Nazionale, to the Grand Hotel.

While John and Victoria superintended the arrival of the luggage in the hall of the hotel, William and Betty entered the salon to rest a moment; for, though it was not yet the middle of May, the heat was already quite Neapolitan, and a burning sun was shining in a sky of regal blue.

"Let us say little, but to the point," said William, who had begun to form a resolution concerning his misadventure.

"I am all attention, my dear sir," returned Betty.

"You know my position, and you have assisted in despoiling me. I have no idea, therefore, of being proud or of trying to hide the state of affairs from you. On the other hand, you will probably admit that I shall before long be again in a solvent position, so, without any false pride, I can ask you to lend me a hundred pounds while I am waiting for my banker to telegraph me some funds?"

"Quite impossible!" returned the girl, with comic emphasis.

"Impossible?" And William, whose thoughts had been miles away from any idea of such a refusal, turned very red at the humiliation.

"Oh, don't be alarmed," said Betty, seeing his trouble. "I have the hundred pounds and plenty more; thanks to you partly, my dear friend, for without your generosity in Paris——"

"Well then——?" asked William, comforted a little by the kind remembrance.

"Well then—I shall behave as if I hadn't them. And yet you cannot doubt my desire to be agreeable to you."

"I am afraid I must doubt it," said William drily.

"No, my dear Mr. Keniss, you will not. But as it would be unkind of me not to give you my real motive, please remember that, since at present you are my prisoner and it is in my power to prevent your escaping to carry out the schemes that brought you to Naples, I should be very foolish to give you, or even lend you, the key of the fortress in the form of bank-notes. Run up accounts in my name, as many as you please, and I promise to pay them—when I know what I want to know; but, as regards ready money, don't expect it, for you will not have one cent."

William took the matter very well when it was presented in this light, seeing that it meant no loss of dignity.

"So, so," he said gaily, "this is merely a little stratagem of war?"

"Exactly."

"Very well, so be it. I will go and pawn the precious pin you gave me, and which frightened our mutual thief so. I shall get the cost of a telegram for it."

"Oh! a souvenir from me!" cried Betty, bursting into a laugh as she looked at William's tie; to which he put up his hand to take the pin—but the pin was no longer there.

"What, has that also disappeared?" he cried.

"Faith," observed Betty, "the commander wished to recover his own."

"His own? What can you mean?"

"Yes; he let it fall into my trunk when he was rummaging it during our voyage. Now do you understand how I knew he was the thief; why I wanted him to see you wearing it, and why he was so overcome at the sight?"

"But you might have told me—have shown me how blind I was."

"But you ought not to have let the good gentleman escape. So much the worse for you!"

The two young people had only the consolation of laughing over their various relations with the too seductive traveller, and of determining to do impossible things to bring him to justice.

"After all this, let us be serious," said William. "I suppose you don't wish me to stop at this hotel, where you are staying yourself?"

"Why not?"

"Because you are a young lady and I am a young man, and it would not be quite the proper thing."

"Are we not Americans, and so free to do as we please?" asked Betty, astonished at the scruple.

"Certainly, but we are not in America."

"Never mind. It is to my interest that you stay here, so pray resign yourself to it."

"Very good, Miss Betty. I obey."

The girl looked at the clock.

"Three o'clock," said she. "We have still some time before us. Will you accompany me for a drive in the town at four?"

"Most willingly."

"Then I will meet you here in an hour's time."

William and Betty then retired to their respective apartments, followed, the one by John and the other by Victoria.

"We are in a very delicate position here," said William to his servant when they were alone. "I know you for a chatterbox and a glutton, so I recommend the greatest discretion in your dealings with Miss Scott and Victoria, who will not fail to get all they can out of you. Don't accept anything from them, and don't tell them a word about our plans."

"Don't you fear, sir; I'll be dumb."

At this same moment Betty was saying to Victoria—

"We have our adversaries in our power, and we must profit by the circumstance in getting to know exactly what they have come here for. I will see if I can make Mr. Keniss speak, and you must try what you can do with John."

"Very well, miss; I will do my best."

Punctually at four o'clock William and Betty entered an elegant victoria, drawn by two Sardinian horses, whose harness, studded with silver nails, shone in the sun like carbuncles. They drove first past the magnificent gardens stretching before the Grand Hotel, and known as the Villa Nazionale. Then along Via Carracciolo, having, on the one side, the panorama of the blue sea, the old Castello del' Ova and the distant mountains of Sorrento, covered with a golden mist, and, on the other, the palms and rare trees of the park, which soften the severe outline of the Castle of S. Elmo.

Turning round the Pizzofalcone they gained the Toledo, the central artery of Naples, where an animated bustle was beginning after the midday siesta.

"What a noise! What busy people! What excitement!" cried Betty.

"If any one had told me a week ago that I should be here to-day, and, moreover, without any notion of what I have come for—"

William's only reply was a smile, but a minute later he remarked—

"I must not forget to enter my complaint against the commander."

The driver, being informed of this desire, turned towards the Palace of San Giacomo, the Town Hall, where are the offices of the Naples police. At his request William was introduced to the head of the police himself, M. Petto, a man of mature age, good-looking, and the best of company. Betty made one of the party, and the two Americans gave a graphic account of their unfortunate adventures with their brilliant but elusive adversary.

"Will you describe him to me?" said the chief, smiling.

This was a matter of no small difficulty to the two prosecutors. To William he had presented a turned-up brown moustache, closely cropped hair and dull complexion; to Betty a light, drooping moustache and bright coloured cheeks. On one point they were agreed—the colour of his eyes, which was a beautiful reddish brown with fawn-coloured rays emanating from the pupils.

"Very good," said the chief. "I shall find him before long, as he cannot be far away."

Delighted at this assurance, William and Betty thanked the obliging functionary as heartily as if they were already in possession of their money and papers, got into their carriage again, and returned to the Toledo to continue their drive; the driver, who could gabble a few English words, pointing out the objects of special interest.

"That," said he, "is the Royal Palace, with marble statues of the principal kings who have governed the country; a little further back is the San Carlo Theatre; opposite, the Umberto Gallery; yonder is the Bellini Theatre—the Gallery of the Prince of Naples—the Museo Nazionale."

And their drive continued through the Via Salvatore Rosa and the wide Corso Vittorio Emanuele, which winds round the heights of S. Elmo, and whence you can catch, in places, incomparable views of the town and the bay.

"What an astonishing country!" said Betty. "What light! What a sun! What colours! It's enough to make one blind or mad."

"Yes, it is grand!" said William, yielding to the beauty of the scene.

Betty, knowing well how enthusiastic feelings, such as admiration, often lead to confidences, felt she might risk a leading question.

"Of course you are still looking for the famous stamp!" she said. "And it is no less evident that it is to be found at Naples, since you have come here. Is it not so?"

"Perhaps," said William enigmatically.

"You might just as well tell me at once," insisted Betty, "as I have warned you I shall not leave you till I know all about it."

"Who knows but what I may find means to escape you yet?"

"Thanks; you are very kind."

"I can assure you," said William, with a little irony in his tone, "I have no more wish to be disagreeable than you have. We are engaged in warfare and must each attend to his own tactics. You keep me a prisoner; what could be more excusable than an attempt to escape?"

"I shall follow you everywhere."

"Then it is superfluous to tell you beforehand the places to which I intend going, as you will soon see for yourself."

"You are not very gallant."

"I will become so again, Miss Betty, when you again become generous. Good deeds lead to good ones, the same as bad to bad."

"Your silence is a revenge then?"

"It amounts to pretty much the same thing. You refuse to lend me a hundred pounds; I refuse to tell you a secret. What could be more just and natural?"

"I have not refused them. I have simply imposed a delay."

"I will not act otherwise by you, Miss Betty. You shall have my secret, but at the right time."

A deep silence followed. The carriage, doubling round, had turned to the right into the Mergellina and commenced the ascent towards Pausilippe by the Strada Nuova.

"Look," said the driver, pointing to the imposing ruins, "that is the Palace of Donna Anna."

On their right rose the slopes of the hill, covered with orange trees and Italian pines; on the left, lovely gardens filled with flowers unrolled their lawns and beds away to the transparent blue waves of the sea.

At a turn in the Strada Nuova they came upon a magnificent edifice in the style of a castle of the time of Louis XIV. All around it were large shady groups of carob trees, citrons, and oaks. A profusion of flowers was growing everywhere on turf, which was continually being watered by the gardeners, while clear streams issued with silvery babbling out of a number of pink marble fountains. A large terrace with onyx balustrade ran along the front of the building, from which a magnificent view of the bay might be obtained.

"How splendid!" said Betty. "Whose house is this?"

"Ah!" said the driver. "That belongs to a man who has eaten up all his patrimony and will not be here much longer, for he must be nearly at the end of his resources."

"And his name?" asked William.
 "Prince Albrandi."

The young American gave a start at the name, but fortunately it passed unnoticed by Betty. Then it was here, in this palace, that the long-looked-for second copy of the stamp was to be found! And he was only a few yards away! Almost near enough to touch it!

William's first thought was to jump out of the carriage and rush off to the Prince. But what could he say, and how explain this sudden freak to Betty? Much better wait till morning. So, contenting himself

with remarking carefully the situation of the place, an easily recognizable one, the Stamp King, for whom the drive had now lost much of its interest, in spite of the attractions of the hour and the beautiful scenery, proposed that they should return to the hotel. Betty was of the same mind, glad to return home herself to form in solitude some decisive plan, since her rival had no intention of letting her into his secrets. So she gave the order, and the two travellers were speedily being driven back towards the Villa Nazionale.

An extraordinary and unexpected scene was there awaiting them.



(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

News from Finland

HELSINGFORS, 3rd September, 1905

Current Stamps of Finland: Different Printings

It seems to be still unknown in philatelic circles, especially to all young collectors, that the type of postage stamp now in use in Finland is issued in two quite different printings. In 1901 a provisional printing was executed by the private printing firm of F. Tilgmann and Co. Since 1902 the postage stamps have been made by the Stamp-printing Works, which is a government institution. The following was the cause of a provisional printing. According to the order issued by the Russian Minister of the Interior, the new stamps of Russian pattern were to be introduced on 14th January, 1901; the use of the old Finnish stamps was forbidden from that day. As a pattern for making the new type, one piece of every stamp was supplied from St. Petersburg to the Finnish authorities, and the original plates and illustrations were to be procured by them.

At first the authorities wished to order them in Finland, and the firm of F. Tilgmann and Co., printers, Helsingfors, accepted the order. In December, 1900, the ordered plates and clichés were supplied by the said firm; but on being tried they were found to be quite useless, and therefore they were all rejected.

Fresh illustrations were ordered at once from Herr H. Berthold, in Berlin; but owing to the shortness of time, they could not be supplied by 14th January.

Therefore it was necessary to provide a provisional issue by means of lithography, and Tilgmann, of Helsingfors, received the order to supply the required stamps by 14th January. This firm supplied stamps in the following numbers:—

| | | | | |
|--------|---|---|---|------------|
| 2 p. | . | . | . | 590,000. |
| 5 p. | . | . | . | 3,088,000. |
| 10 p. | . | . | . | 1,194,000. |
| 20 p. | . | . | . | 3,365,000. |
| 1 mark | . | . | . | 156,000. |

At the same time the said firm received an order to print a small provisional issue of the 10 mark stamp in ordinary printing from clichés made by the firm itself and approved of by the government authorities. Of this 10 mark stamp 13,500 were issued.

All the stamps printed by Tilgmann and Co. were on chalked paper. The gumming and perforating took place in the Stamp-printing Works by means of the same machines as were used later in the case of the stamps printed by the government authorities.

In the summer of 1901 the new clichés were supplied by Herr Berthold, of Berlin, and approved of, and from them the various Finnish stamps have been made by the authorities themselves.

Thus there exist two issues of these stamps—one being a provisional issue made by a private printing firm, and the other the ordinary regular issue.

I append a list of the stamps of both issues, with a note of the chief points of difference in the stamps referred to.

A. *Provisional Issue*, made by Tilgman and Co., chalked surface paper.

(a) Lithographed.

2 p., orange-yellow. The figure "2" below the shield is vertical, or slopes somewhat towards the left.

5 p. Strongly shaded from yellow-green to grass-green. The bottom strokes of the Russian letters are not clear; the same letters somewhat smaller than later. The under-printing not clear, at times lacking entirely.

10 p., carmine-pink. The printing is smeared. The colour vanishes in water.

20 p. The figures "20" are squeezed between the words *HEM* and *PEN*. The colour comes out in water generally.

1 mark. The oval around the shield is yellowish green. The bottom stroke of the figure "1" after the Finnish word *MARKAA* is lacking.

(b) Ordinary printing. Done from the clichés prepared by F. Tilgmann.

10 mark. The background grey. The upper colour is printed very thickly, so that the background is not visible between the inner parts of the wings and the feathers. These stamps were printed in twenty-five pieces on one half-sheet, and with a black two-lined frame. The ciphers in "10" have very thin strokes at top and bottom.

B. *Government Issues*.

Made by the Stamp-printing Works on ordinary

non-chalky papers. Printed from H. Berthold clichés.

2 p., orange-red. The figure "2" is somewhat sloping towards the right.

5 p., pure green, light or dark. The under-printing clear.

10 p., carmine-red, clear print.

20 p. The figures "20" are not squeezed so much between the words *HEM* and *PEN*.

1 mark. The oval is blue-green. The figure "1" after the word *MARKAA* has the stroke at foot.

10 mark. The colour is brighter than that of the provisional stamp. The background approaches somewhat lilac-brown, and is to be seen clearly between the wings and the flight-feathers. The ciphers "10" have thicker strokes above and below than the case of the provisional issue. The stamps are printed together in 100 pieces on the sheet, and have no frame. The stamps on the margin on the right and left sides bear portions of the border watermark "Finlands Stampelkontor" or "Suomen Leimakontori."

The 10 mark stamp described above is therefore the first Finnish stamp to bear a watermark. In consequence of the forgeries of the 20 p. postage stamp made in the autumn of 1904, the Government intended to have from next year all postage stamps printed on paper with watermark.

M. v. H.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

Programme of Meetings

Season 1905-6 (Subject to Revision)

MEETING PLACE.—Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C. (May be reached by bus and rail from all parts of London.)

TIME OF MEETINGS.—The business of the meetings is taken at 8 p.m., but the hall is open from two to two and half hours earlier, according to the time-table, to enable members to meet and exchange stamps, and for auction sales of members' duplicates.

TEA.—The officials of the Society, on meeting nights, meet at tea in the refreshment-room at Exeter Hall, and tables are reserved for them, and for any members who care to join them. Time, 5 o'clock on Auction nights, 5.30 on Bourse nights.

BOURSE.—No charge or commission of any kind is made on exchanges effected among the members at the meetings. But the Committee earnestly hope that exchanging will be confined to the hours before or after the actual business, in courtesy to the philatelist who is lecturing or displaying his collection.

AUCTION.—See Special Regulations in new Prospectus.

COMPETITIVE NIGHTS.—See Special Regulations in new Prospectus.

IMPORTANT.—The annual subscription of 1s. 6d. does not admit of the posting of regular notices of every meeting. Members are therefore urgently requested to keep the full programme by them for frequent reference, and to remember that the meetings are on the *first* and *third* Saturdays of each month.

Saturday, 7 October, 1905

6. o. Bourse.

8. o. Presidential Address.

8.20. Paper and display. "British Somaliland."

B. W. H. Poole, Vice-President.

9. o. Paper. "The Gentle Art of Stamp Collecting."

C. B. Purdom.

21 October (Nelson Centenary)

6. o. Bourse.

8. o. Paper. "Posts in Nelson's Time." Fred J. Melville.

8.20. Paper. "The Electric and International: A Talk about British Telegraphic Companies and Stamps." R. Halliday.

8.40. Display. African Colonies I. Cape Colony.

9.20. Debate. "Should great commemorations be signalized by the Issue of Special Stamps?"

4 November (Competitive)

5.30. Auction Sale.

8. o. Display. Great Britain. J. S. Higgins, jun.

Two Diplomas will be awarded for the best collections of Great Britain submitted to the Examining Committee by members, (a) over twenty-one years of age; (b) under twenty-one.

18 November

6. o. Bourse.

8. o. Paper and display. "Colombia, Republic and States." A. H. L. Giles, R.N.

9. o. Display. African Colonies II. Gambia and Gold Coast.

2 December

5.30. Auction Sale.

8. o. Paper and Display. "Sarawak." B. W. H. Poole.

9. o. Display. King's Head and recent Colonials. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

16 December

6. o. Bourse.

8. o. Paper. "Hayti for Beginners." Fred J. Melville.

8.30. Humorous Paper. "On Nothing in Particular—Especially Stamps." W. E. Imeson.

9. o. Display. African Colonies III. Transvaal, from 1878; Natal, from 1859; and Orange River Colony.

literature Night

66. Saturday, 6 January (Competitive)

Two Diplomas will be awarded, one for the best exhibit of *philatelic literature or library accessories*, and one for the best short paper (not to exceed ten minutes in the reading), to be read by a member to the meeting. Notice of such papers must be given to the Hon. Secretary by 1 January. A further diploma will be awarded to the publisher exhibiting the best handbook, special or general, calculated to be of advantage to junior philatelists. The special programme will include:—

- 30. Auction of Philatelic Literature.
- o. Paper. "Early Stamp Catalogues." R. Halliday.

Saturday, 20 January

- o. Bourse.
- o. Paper. "Gibraltar and the Morocco Agencies." H. W. Westcott.
- Display. Gibraltar. G. F. H. Gibson, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Philatelic Society.
- 40. Display. African Colonies IV. St. Helena and Sierra Leone.
- 15. Debate. "Used v. Unused." Openers, C. J. Patman (Used); James Feeney (Unused).

Friday, 2 February

Inauguration of the Manchester Branch of the Junior Philatelic Society by the President at the Athenæum, Manchester. Collectors residing in or near Manchester can obtain particulars and tickets in due course from Mr. I. J. Bernstein (local Hon. Secretary *pro tem.*), 9, Albert Square, Manchester.

Saturday, 3 February

- o. Auction.
- o. Display. Forgeries. A. B. Kay.
- 40. Display. African Colonies V. Lagos and Mauritius.
- 15. Paper and Display. "Barbados." C. P. Rogers.

7 February

Seventh Annual Conversazione in the *Bijou Theatre*, Archer Street, W., when it is hoped to present a philatelic farce, entitled "The Lady Faker," for the first time. Full announcements will appear in due course.

March

- 30. Auction.
- o. Display. The Fiscal Stamps of the United States and Crete. W. Schwabacher, Chairman of the Fiscal Philatelic Society.
- o. Paper. "Philately in the Police Courts." C. B. Purdom.

5 March

- 30. Third visit to the Tapling Collection of Stamps at the British Museum.

7 March

- o. Bourse.
- o. Paper and Display. "The College Stamps of Great Britain." L. Savournin.
- o. Display. African Colonies VI. North and South Nigeria, Niger Coast, and Oil Rivers.

April (Competitive). Ladies' night. Ladies specially invited

- 30. Auction.
- o. Display. Cape of Good Hope, including the triangular issues. Mrs. E. Field.
- o. Paper. "Philately in Fiction." The President.

Two Diplomas will be given for the best small collections (general or special) submitted by lady members to the Examining Committee, not later than six o'clock, (a) for ladies over twenty-one, (b) under twenty-one.

N.B.—Many ladies attend these meetings regularly, but it is hoped that this evening an unusually large number will be present.

21 April (Competitive)

- 6. o. Bourse.
- 8. o. United States Competitive Display.

Two Diplomas will be given for the best collections of the United States issues submitted to the Examining Committee by members—(a) over twenty-one, (b) under twenty-one.

- 9. o. Display. African Colonies. British Bechuanaland, Somaliland, Central Africa, East Africa and Uganda, and South Africa.

5 May

- 5.30. Auction.
- 8. o. Paper and Display. "The Emperor's Head issues of Brazil." Percy C. Bishop.
- 9. o. Paper and Display. "Entires of Dutch Indies." W. A. Bois.

19 May

- 5.30. Bourse.
- 7.30. Annual General Meeting.

9 June

- Annual Excursion or Garden Party.

Extra meetings may be held from time to time as occasion arises, and due notice will be given of same in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. Suggestions for, and offers of, interesting items should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

The interesting series of British African displays on the third Saturday of each month (except February, when the display will be given on the *first* Saturday), has been arranged by the kindness of Ernest Heginbottom, Esq., B.A., who has placed his vast collection at our disposal for study on these occasions. Young members, and old ones too, are particularly desired to bring their own collections of these colonies for comparison and reference.

This Programme, in handy pocket form, with full particulars, 32 pp., may be had free from the Hon. Secretary, H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W., to whom also all applications for membership should be made.

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodliew, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.

Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

ALL arrangements are now complete for the approaching season, and the Committee will shortly issue the third annual report of the Society, a careful perusal of which is requested.

A few minor alterations have been made in the rules.

The Exchange Section has shown unusual activity throughout the slack season, sales from the packets averaging 20 per cent. of the total value, which now reaches a very respectable figure every month, and is usually contained on between fifty and sixty sheets.

With regard to the programme for 1905-6, Mr. Schwabacher has again kindly consented to contribute to the displays with a collection of the United States and Philippines, accompanied by a dissertation entitled "Fiscal Notes and Indications."

Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., has also favoured us with the promise of a series of displays from the West Indian portion of his collection; and with several other items of a high quality in the list, the outlook for the winter months is indeed promising.

The finances of the Society are in a flourishing condition, as will be seen from an inspection of the statement of accounts to be published shortly.

The first meeting for 1905-6 will take place at the London head-quarters, the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., on Wednesday, 18 October, and the names of several applicants for membership will be placed before the members.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Charging for Auction Catalogues

I HAVE received a circular from Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, intimating that in future they intend to make a charge of 2s. for the catalogues of their Stamp Auctions each season.

Hitherto our Stamp Auctioneers have sent out their catalogues free to all well-known collectors.

There is no question that the free distribution of the catalogues must be a great expense, but it is in the interest of both seller and auctioneers that they should be widely distributed. One might go further and say that it is to the disadvantage of the seller if the distribution of catalogues is in any way restricted.

However, Messrs. Puttick and Simpson ought to know their own business best, though I fear their decision will handicap them in the eyes of collectors when a choice comes to be made for the auctioning of a collection.

I guess if I had to dispose of my collection I should prefer that auctioneer who had a name for the *early* and *free* distribution of his catalogues.

Glendining's Second Sale

I HAVE just received the catalogue of Glendining's second sale. There are not many showy stamps in the lots, but there are some tempting collections of many countries.

What a splendid opportunity young collectors, and

general collectors too, have nowadays for starting with a cheap lot of most countries!

It is the well-known practice of the auctioneers to pick out the expensive stamps from a collection for sale in separate lots, and then sell the rest as a collection or, as they frequently describe it, "remainder of the collection." These lots now and again fetch good prices, but as a general rule they are bargains, and collectors who want to make a start with a new country should keep their eyes open for these remainder lots.

High Values of Colonials

So many colonies are now running high values that the question of stocking them becomes a very serious matter for dealers.

Consequently it is no uncommon thing for a collector to have to hunt from pillar to post for values from 5s. upwards.

Hence in all probability some of these fine days will be found that high values of short life will become surprisingly high priced.

I have recently had considerable difficulty in two or three 10s. and £1 stamps that I wanted for my collection, all of them current.

Dealers get in a few at first, sell out, and don't bother any further. They cannot afford to concentrate capital to sink it in a few high values which are naturally slow sellers.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

L. S. (London, S.W.).—Write J. A. Tilleard, Esq., Hon. Sec., 10, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C., for information as to becoming a member of the London Philatelic Society. The Prospectus of the coming Exhibition, which we shall publish in a week or so, will give you full particulars as to exhibiting, and also as to tickets of admission.

M. A. (Folkestone).—Your Trinidad overprinted "Free Fee" is a fiscal stamp. "O.S." on South Australian stamps denotes "Official Stamps."

C. V. H. (Birmingham).—The value of a 5d., New South Wales, depends upon what variety of perforation it is.

M. D. M. (Folkestone).—Better write again. The Secretary of the Junior Philatelic Society is Mr. H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, London, S.W. We know of only one colour blue, on the 5d., Queen's Head, Great Britain.

T. B. (Hyde Park, W.).—You will find the *imperfect* 5d., Canadian Beaver stamp, catalogued and priced in Gibbons, No. 44, used, 60s. That is the price for a single. As you are resident in London, your best plan will be to call at Stanley Gibbons', 391, Strand W.C., and see the various albums and make your own personal choice. The "Strand" Album would probably be best for your purposes.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

OCTOBER, 1905

5 & 6. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

6. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion, Antigua. Opened by J. H. Taylor.

10 & 11. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

12 & 13. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.

13. Manchester Philatelic Society: Display, with notes, Tonga. J. H. Abbott.

16. Auction: Douglas Cook and Co., 562, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. 6.30 p.m.

17 & 18. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

19 & 20. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

20. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion, Barbados. Opened by G. L. Campbell, jun.

24 & 25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

26 & 27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Temple Hotel, Arundel Street, London. 5 p.m.

27. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper, Chili from 1897. R. Albrecht.

31. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 15
Whole No. 40

7 OCTOBER, 1905

VOL. II.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, 1906

by THE EDITOR



THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALL, VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, S.W.

ON other pages of this number of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* we publish *in tenso* the Prospectus of the great International Philatelic Exhibition which is to be held in London in May of next year.

As our readers are aware, the grand new hall of the Royal Horticultural Society in Vincent Square, Westminster, S.W., has been specially engaged for the purposes of the Exhibition.

The Prospectus now published will afford further evidence of the determination to make the Exhibition a memorable success.

The patronage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, President of the Philatelic Society, London; of present and past Postmasters-General; the chairmanship of the Earl of Crawford; the active support of a General Committee which includes the most eminent collectors and dealers in the wide-reaching world of

Philately, and the approval and promised cordial support of the great Philatelic Societies of Europe, cannot fail to command success.

Amongst the most notable features of a carefully drawn Prospectus, not the least satisfactory is the provision which has been made for a Championship Class, which removes many unapproachable collections from the arena of general competition, and pits them against each other, instead of allowing them, as heretofore, to sweep the floor of medals right and left, to the discouragement and disappointment of less fortunate but equally industrious collectors.

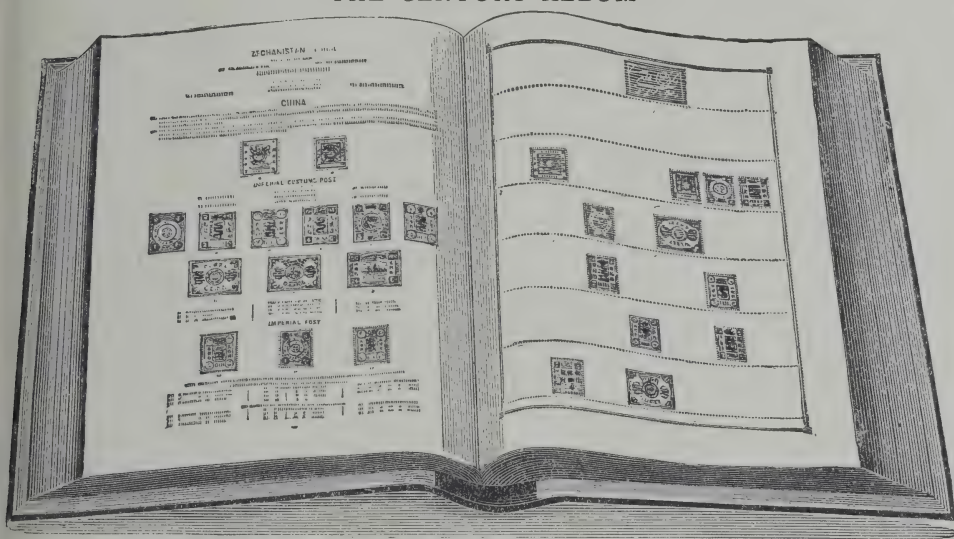
The classification of the various countries has been done with evident care and unquestionable acumen; nevertheless, it will probably give rise to not a little difference of opinion amongst the devotees of countries which are ranked lower than

appearing on the left, and spaces to correspond on the right-hand pages. The catalogue and illustrations are of the greatest help to the young philatelist, for they present a valuable object lesson in the method of arranging stamps in series, and save no end of trouble if the collector desires, at some future date, to remount his stamps according to some final decorative scheme which years of experience have formulated and an overgrown album demands.

The cost of one of these albums varies from 12s. 6d. upwards, according to binding. The price is undoubtedly the bone of contention to some who are not over-

unattainable, the search for perfection and completeness, the great characteristic of man? Does not indifference and sometimes nausea set in when a man has attained the object of his labours? Besides, no one would be so foolish as to think that because he had set out to collect the world's stamps, he must or could ever complete such a collection. The charm of stamp collecting lies not in completion but in acquiring, arranging, studying, travelling over fresh fields, adding new conquests, ever approaching but never reaching the goal. Away with the futile argument! The collector's motto is "Excelsior," not "Excelsissimus." Life

THE CENTURY ALBUM



ALL THE WORLD IN ONE VOLUME

burdened with this world's goods, but when the initial cost of production of such an album (some £2000 to £3000) is taken into account, the cost cannot be regarded as at all excessive. An album to contain some 18,000 stamps, illustrated with several thousand full-sized reproductions of the stamps in catalogue order, cannot well be produced for less, unless space is economized by printing illustrations on both sides of the page, a practice which is to be deprecated for the reason already given under the heading of the Ruled Album.

There may, however, be a deep-rooted objection to the collection of the world's stamps. One argues that the task is impossible. True; but is it to be despised or that? Is not the striving after the

is not long enough for the acquiring of even a tithe of the sum total of the philatelic knowledge of this age.

But there is another argument which works strongly in favour of a limited form of collection. It is the argument of one who has special facilities, due to business or friendship or location, for the acquiring of the stamps of some continent or group of countries. Such a fortunate individual may seek for a special Illustrated Album, and he need not have long to seek. There are such albums for British Africa, Europe, and the British Empire. They are on the same principle as the catalogued album we have described above, and the prices run from 10s. to 50s., according to the nature of the binding and finish.

(To be continued.)

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION, LONDON, 1906

Patron:

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., &c.
(*President of The Philatelic Society, London*).

Vice-Patrons:

THE LORD STANLEY, M.P., K.C.V.O., POSTMASTER-GENERAL.
THE RT. HON. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, M.P., P.C., &c., *late* POSTMASTER-GENERAL, 1902-3.
THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY, K.G., &c., *late* POSTMASTER-GENERAL, 1900-2.
THE DUKE OF NORFOLK, K.G., &c., *late* POSTMASTER-GENERAL, 1895-1900.

Chairman of Committee:

THE EARL OF CRAWFORD, K.T.
(*Vice-President of The Philatelic Society, London*).

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| W. CORFIELD | Geh. Oberpostrath | J. N. MARSDEN | ALPHONSE VULLIEMIN |
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| R. EHRENBACH | H. F. JOHNSON | F. H. OLIVER | |

The following Societies have signified their approval of, and are giving their cordial support to, the Exhibition:—

| | |
|---|--|
| THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON | THE SHEFFIELD PHILATELIC SOCIETY |
| THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF INDIA | THE SCOTTISH PHILATELIC SOCIETY |
| THE BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY | THE WEST SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY |
| THE ENTERPRISE PHILATELIC SOCIETY | PHILATELISTEN-VEREIN "RUND UM BERLIN" |
| THE FISCAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY | INTERNATIONALER POSTWERTZEICHENHÄNDLER-VEREIN, |
| THE GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY | BERLIN |
| THE HERTS PHILATELIC SOCIETY | COPENHAGEN PHILATLIST-KLUB |
| THE INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC UNION | INTERNATIONALER PHILATELISTEN-VEREIN, DRESDEN |
| THE IRISH PHILATELIC CLUB | SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE TIMBROLOGIE, PARIS |
| THE JUNIOR PHILATELIC SOCIETY | GERMANIA-RING |
| THE KENT AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY | NEDERLANDSCHE VEREENIGING VAN POSTZEGELVERZAME- |
| THE LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY | LAARS, THE HAGUE |
| THE LIVERPOOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY | VEREIN FÜR BRIEFMARKENKUNDE, KIEL |
| THE MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY | SOCIÉTÉ LAUSANNOISE DE TIMBROLOGIE |
| THE NORTH OF ENGLAND PHILATELIC SOCIETY | OESTERREICHISCHER PHILATELISTEN-KLUB, "VINDOBONA," |
| THE OXFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY | VIENNA |

Executive Committee:

THE EARL OF CRAWFORD, K.T. (*Chairman*).

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
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| M. P. CASTLE, J.P. | F. H. OLIVER | H. A. SLADE |
| R. EHRENBACH | W. H. PECKITT. | G. HAMILTON-SMITH |

Hon. Treasurer: F. REICHENHEIM, 29, HOLLAND VILLAS ROAD, KENSINGTON, LONDON, W.
(*to whom all remittances should be sent*).

Hon. Secretary: H. R. OLDFIELD,
Hon. Asst. Secretary: L. L. R. HAUSBURG, } 13, WALBROOK, LONDON, E.C.

(*to which address all the other communications should be sent*).

Prospectus

There will be nine years in 1906 since H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, K.G., personally opened the last International Philatelic Exhibition in London; and seven years having elapsed since the last of such Exhibitions took place in Great Britain (at Manchester in 1899), the Committee feel that the time has now arrived to organize a third International Exhibition, to be held in the Metropolis, in compliance with the growing and gradually increasing demand which has been so frequently expressed among Philatelists during the last two years.

They therefore appeal to Philatelists all over the world to afford their cordial support and co-operation, in order that the forthcoming Exhibition may worthily illustrate the progress made during the intervening years, and may show as great and substantial advance since 1897 and 1899 as did those Exhibitions over the one held in London in 1890.

The 1906 Exhibition will be held in the ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S HALL, VINCENT SQUARE, WESTMINSTER, S.W. (see illustration on the last page of the Prospectus), and will be opened on WEDNESDAY, the 23rd MAY, 1906. The Hall is eminently suitable for the Exhibition, being lofty and with a ground area of about 140 feet by 75 feet. There is ample light through a domed glass roof, which can be screened from the sun's rays when necessary. There are two recesses, 50 feet by 25 feet each, on a slightly raised level, available for dealers' stalls, and a tea room. There is also a raised band stand. On the first floor of the main building there is a lecture hall with three other rooms available for exhibits. The building is of fireproof construction and equipped with all requisite fire appliances. It is situate within seven minutes' walk only of Victoria Station and Westminster Abbey, and five minutes' from the Army and Navy Stores in Victoria Street and St. James's Park Station on the Metropolitan Railway.

The Exhibition will comprise British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps, British Telegraph, Railway Letter Fee, and College Stamps, together with objects of interest in connexion with Philately, the Manufacture of Stamps, and the Postal Service. A special feature will be the formation of two Championship Classes, where exhibits that obtained Gold Medals in London in 1897, or at Manchester in 1899, must be entered for competition; but these classes will also be open to other exhibits and exhibitors.

All stamps will be exhibited under glass in locked or sealed cases. Night and day watchmen will be employed, and every possible precaution will be taken to secure exhibits from damage or loss; but no personal responsibility will be undertaken by the Committee.

Arrangements have been made for insurance against risk of loss by fire or theft, further particulars of which will be found in the Rules and Regulations contained in this Prospectus.

Philatelists and Collectors throughout the world are cordially invited to exhibit, and it is especially hoped that the leading Collectors in the British Colonies, on the Continent, and in all Foreign countries will send

exhibits, so that the Exhibition may be thoroughly representative and international.

Arrangements will be made to facilitate as far as possible the passing of exhibits from abroad through the Customs without risk of damage, and for examination to be made in the presence of a representative of the Committee. No duty is levied on stamps sent to Great Britain.

The Exhibition will remain open to the public from Wednesday, 23rd May, until Friday evening, the 1st June, 1906, and all exhibits will be returned to the owners on Saturday, 2nd June, or as soon as possible after that date.

Intending exhibitors are specially requested to send full particulars of their exhibits as early as possible, as by so doing they will considerably lighten the work of the Executive Committee and will enable them to devote the time and attention which are desirable for the preparation of the Official Catalogue.

The Exhibition will be held subject to the following Rules and Regulations, of all of which exhibitors will be deemed to have had sufficient notice.

Rules and Regulations

1.—Exhibits in the Championship Class and in Classes I to VI must be mounted on cards, or loose sheets. Although no special size of cards is obligatory, it is hoped that exhibitors who may be mounting their stamps specially for the Exhibition will make use of one of the undermentioned sizes, and so will assist the Committee in economizing space and securing uniformity.

The following are the sizes recommended as the most suitable for use in the frames and cases:—

Height, 10 inches; width, 8 inches or 12 inches.

„ 15 inches „ 12 inches.

(The sizes in centimetres will be $25\frac{1}{2} \times 20\frac{1}{4}$ or $30\frac{1}{2}$, and $38 \times 30\frac{1}{2}$.)

Cards measuring 10 inches by 8 inches can be supplied at a trifling cost on application to the Hon. Secretaries.

2.—A charge for space, according to the size of the exhibits or of the cards or other material on which they may be mounted, will be made on the following scale:—

For each square foot ... 4d. (minimum charge 5/-).

For each album or volume of stamps—

in Classes VII and VIII ... 6/-

in Class IX ... 2/6

Arrangements will be made by the Committee for insurance against loss by fire or theft of exhibits while in their custody, either before or during the continuance of the Exhibition, and after the close of the Exhibition until despatched for return to the owners. An inclusive charge of 2/6 will be made for each £100 insured. Owners of exhibits desiring to insure, and paying the prescribed amount, will have the benefit of the Policy effected by the Committee to the extent of the value at which such exhibits are accepted for insurance, but no personal liability is incurred by the Committee in regard to any loss.

The charge for space, and insurance (if any), will be payable by the exhibitor when sending in his exhibit.

All exhibits will be returned free of charge to their owners by post or otherwise, but transmission will in all cases be at the sole risk of the owner—insurance in course of transit (if any) being paid by him.

3.—Notice of the nature and extent of the exhibits, with the value for insurance, should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries as early as possible, but not later than the 20th March, 1906, on the form accompanying this Prospectus.

4.—All exhibits must be delivered, post or carriage paid, between the 1st and 10th May, 1906, at such place as may be notified to the exhibitor by the Hon. Secretaries. Punctuality in delivery is particularly requested, to ensure accurate description of the exhibits in the Official Catalogue.

5.—The right of refusing any exhibit, without assigning any reason for such refusal, is reserved by the Committee, as is also the right of showing such part of any exhibit as the Committee may decide, in case of there being insufficient space available for showing the whole.

6.—All exhibits entered for competition must be *bona fide* the property of the exhibitor. Joint collections will be shown in joint names, but no combination made expressly for the purpose of the Exhibition can be admitted for competition. Exhibitors in Class IX must, if required, furnish evidence of age to the satisfaction of the Committee.

7.—Albums and volumes of stamps will be exhibited at the most interesting pages, to be varied from time to time during the Exhibition by a member of the Committee. No albums will be allowed to be inspected (except by the Judges) without the permission of the owner, and at his risk, and then only in the presence of a member of the Committee.

8.—No price or other notification of sale may be affixed to any exhibit, but the owner may intimate to the Hon. Secretaries his desire to sell, and arrangements will be made to facilitate this being done, and, if necessary, to open a Register. No exhibit can be removed before the close of the Exhibition. In case of sale the price will be payable to the Committee, who will account to the owner for the purchase money, after deducting $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., to be applied towards the general expenses of the Exhibition.

9.—The Judges will be appointed by the Executive Committee, and their decision will, in all cases, be final. They will be nine in number, of whom it is proposed that at least four shall be chosen from the representatives of Foreign Countries.

10.—No exhibits by any of the Judges can be entered for competition.

11.—The following scheme of competition has been adopted by the Committee, but all exhibits which the owners may desire to enter as "not for competition" will be so marked in the several classes for which they are eligible.

In making their awards the Judges will be requested to base the same upon a consideration of the following

qualifications: Completeness, Rarity, Philatelic knowledge and research, Condition, Arrangement, and Neatness.

12.—Donors and Guarantors to the Exhibition will be entitled to tickets of admission upon the following scale: For each donation of £1. 1s. or each guarantee of £20: one ticket for the opening day and eight tickets for use on any of the other days. Guarantors of £10 to have the option of one ticket for the opening day, or eight tickets for any other day.

Championship Class

This class will comprise exhibits that have obtained a Gold Medal at either the London Exhibition of 1897 or the Manchester Exhibition of 1899. Any exhibitor showing an exhibit of the country in respect of which he may have taken a Gold Medal at either of these Exhibitions, must exhibit in this Class, but any exhibitor is at liberty to send an exhibit for this Class whether he may have previously obtained a Gold Medal for such exhibit or not.

Section 1

Great Britain or any of its Colonies, in separate exhibits.

Section 2

Other Countries in separate exhibits.

Awards for each Section of this Class

One Cup and one Gold Medal. The Medals, however, will not be given if there be less than three exhibits in the section concerned.

NOTE.—The Committee reserve the right to decide whether any exhibit is substantially one to which a Gold Medal has been previously awarded, and they may refuse to accept such exhibit except for one of the Championship Classes. Their decision upon this point will be final and conclusive.

Class I to Class VI

To consist of Special Collections of Adhesive Stamps of Various Countries, in separate exhibits

Class I.—Great Britain

Section 1

Postage Stamps (including Official Stamps and Fiscals available for postage). *Unused only.*

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

Section 2

Postage Stamps (including Official Stamps and Fiscals available for postage). *Used only.*

Awards.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal.

Section 3

Telegraph, or Railway Letter Fee, or College Stamps, in separate exhibits.

Awards.—One Silver and one Bronze Medal.

Class II

Section 1

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| British Guiana. | United States of America |
| Hawaiian Islands. | (including Postmasters' Stamps). |
| Mauritius. | Switzerland. |
| New South Wales. | Afghanistan. |

Awards.—One Gold and two Silver Medals.

If over six exhibits, the Judges to have discretion to award additional Gold Medal.

Section 2

Victoria.
Netherlands.
New Zealand.
South Australia.
Seylon.
Germany and States.

Italy and States.
France and all Colonies.
Confederate States of America (including Postmasters' Stamps).

Awards.—One Gold and two Silver Medals.

If over six exhibits, the Judges to have discretion to award additional Gold Medal.

Class III

Section 1

Western Australia.
Colombia and States.
Frontier Settlements (including Bangkok, Johor, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Selangor, Sungai Ujong, and Federated Malay States).
France.

French Colonies.
Roumania, and Moldo-Wallachia.
India.
Spain.
Philippine Islands.
Japan.
Tasmania.
Portuguese Indies.

Awards.—One Gold and two Silver Medals.

Section 2

Canada.
Queensland.
Cape of Good Hope.
Catal.
Trinidad.
Bolivia.

Mexico.
Turks Islands.
Sicily.
Peru.
Dominican Republic.
Fiji.

Awards.—One Gold and two Silver Medals.

Class IV

Section 1

Orange Free State.
Orange River Colony.
Crete.
Portugal.
Lebanon.
Briqualand.
Lodena.

Uruguay.
Shanghai.
Turkey.
Indian States (viz. Chamba, Faridkot, Gwalior, Jhind, Nabha, Patiala).

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

Section 2

Newfoundland.
Juanes Ayres.
Austria.
Tuscany.
St. Vincent.
Farbados.

Uganda.
Cashmere.
Grenada.
Argentine, with Cordoba and Corrientes.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

Section 3

Caples.
Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.
Wurtemberg.
Azores and Madeira.
Wenden.

Oldenburg.
Brazil.
Chili.
Bhopal.
Russia, with Livonia, Wenden, and Poland.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and one Bronze Medal.

Class V

Section 1

Belgium.
Russian Locals.
Russian Levant.
Dutch Indies, Curaçao and Austrian Italy. [Surinam.
Norway.
Any two German States not in Class IV or in the other sections of this class, and exclusive of Heligoland.

St. Helena.
New Republic.
Egypt, Sudan, and Suez Canal.
Oil Rivers, Niger Coast, Northern and Southern Nigeria.
Zanzibar.
Siam.
China.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and two Bronze Medals.

Section 2

Holland.
Denmark and its Colonies.
Heligoland.
Cyprus.
Hong Kong.
Persia.
Venezuela and La Guaira.
British Honduras.

British Central Africa.
British East Africa.
British South Africa.
Labuan.
North Borneo.
St. Christopher.
Costa Rica and Guana-caste.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and two Bronze Medals.

Section 3

Baden.
Saxony.
Luxemburg.
British Columbia and Vancouver.
Cuba, Porto Rico, and Fernando Poo.
Any two Portuguese Colonies not in Class III, Section 1, or Class IV, Section 3.
Any two Italian States not in Classes III and IV.
St. Lucia.

Bahamas.
British Bechuanaland and Protectorate.
Servia.
Any four or more Indian Native States not in Class IV.
Lagos.
Sierra Leone.
Seychelles.
Tobago.
Virgin Isles.
Hungary.
Tonga.

Awards.—One Gold, one Silver, and two Bronze Medals.

Class VI

Section 1

Malta.
Ionian Isles.
Leeward Isles and Cayman Islands.
Montserrat.
Roumelia and South Bulgaria.
Montenegro.
Bosnia.
Monaco.
Guatemala.

Roumania (without Moldo-Wallachia).
Paraguay.
Denmark.
Ecuador.
Hayti.
Honduras.
Nicaragua.
San Salvador.
Swazieland and Stellaland.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

Section 2

Bermuda.
Jamaica.
Antigua. Crete.
Abyssinia.
British New Guinea.
Dominica.
Falkland Isles.
Gambia.
Samoa.
Cook Islands.
Gibraltar and Morocco Agencies.
Gold Coast.

Zululand.
Bulgaria.
Congo.
Sarawak.
San Marino. Liberia.
Prince Edward Island.
Corea.
German Colonies.
British Somaliland.
Madagascar (British Consular Mail).
Iceland.
Danish West Indies.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

Class VII

To consist of General Collections in Printed Albums.

- Section 1.—Without limit as to number.
 " 2.—Containing from 5000 to 10,000 stamps.
 " 3.— " not more than 5000 stamps.

Awards.—One Gold, two Silver, and two Bronze Medals in Section 1.

Two Silver and two Bronze Medals in Section 2.

One " " " " 3.

See Note Class VIII.

Class VIII

To consist of General Collections in Plain Albums.

- Section 1.—Without limit as to number.
 " 2.—Containing from 5000 to 10,000 stamps.
 " 3.— " not more than 5000 stamps.

Awards.—Similar to those in Class VII.

NOTE.—No collection in Classes VII or VIII will be considered to be a General Collection unless it consists of at least twenty-five Countries.

Class IX

For Junior Collectors only

To consist of General or Special Collections in any kind of Album.

Section 1

For Collectors aged from 16 to 21 years.

- Division 1.—Collections containing over 5000 stamps.
 " 2.—Collections containing from 3000 to 5000 stamps.
 " 3.—Collections containing not more than 3000 stamps.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals for Division 1.

One Silver and two Bronze Medals for Division 2.

Two Bronze Medals for Division 3.

Section 2

For Collectors under 16 years of age.

- Division 1.—Collections containing over 2 stamps.
 " 2.—Collections containing under 2 stamps.

Awards.—One Silver and two Bronze Medals

Division 1.

Two Bronze Medals for Division 2.

Class X

For Exhibits by Stamp Engravers and Manufacturers of Postage Stamps and Telegraph Stamps.

Stamps shown in this Class must be limited to specimens of work done by the exhibitor's own Firm Company, and may comprise Stamps as issued, Proofs or Essays, or all three.

Awards.—One Gold and one Silver Medal.

Class XI

Special Arrangements of Stamps, Proofs, Essays, Curiosities, and Objects of Interest in connexion with Philately and the Postal Service.

Awards.—Two Silver and two Bronze Medals.

No Special or Private Medals will be accepted by the Committee for this Exhibition, but a further limited number of Medals will be placed at the disposal of the Judges for award in any cases in which they may consider an exhibit specially deserving recognition, and the Committee will also award Silver Medals for special services rendered to the Exhibition.

No exhibitor can take more than one prize in each Class, nor more than three in Classes II to VI inclusive, and no exhibit may be entered for more than one Class or Section.

The Committee much regret that owing to the limited space available, they have been unable to provide for the exhibition of envelopes, post cards, and philatelic literature.

CORRESPONDENCE

Exchange of Duplicates

DEAR SIR,—One of the chief difficulties for the beginner, especially a schoolboy, is in the matter of exchange. At first exchanges are numerous, and the collection grows rapidly. But this gradually ceases, and soon the zeal for stamp collecting dies away. The album is then cast aside, perhaps never to be taken up again. There are some collectors who do not depend on getting stamps from the place where they are living, but go farther afield and exchange with distant countries.

Could not this custom be made more general? I am sure there are many collectors in other countries who would like to have this advantage. And in this, I think, *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* would be able to help a great deal.

Could you not have an advertisement corner? In

this your readers would advertise, giving the name of the country in which they wish to exchange, the size of their collection, and address.

The size of one's collection would have to be given as it would be of no use for a collector with 3000 stamps to exchange with one having 500.

Of course, the magazine would have a regular column for the inserting of such advertisements.

If some one took it up it could later on be formed into a kind of club. I myself have often enough wished that I had a person to exchange with in some distant country. The start would be rather slow, but once it was started, I am sure no collector would be sorry he took it up. Hoping it will succeed,

Yours truly,

B. C. A.

THE STRAND POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Well arranged, reliable, and thoroughly correct. Seventh edition. 100 Postage Stamps, all genuine and of a catalogue value of over 8s., are presented with each Strand Album. The book, which is printed on an unusually good quality paper, is bound in a new and specially designed cover. The size is a neat and convenient one, viz. 9½ inches by 7½ inches. Sufficient guards have been inserted so that when the Album is full the covers shall be level with each other, and not bulged, as is often the case in imperfectly constructed books. 300 pages, post-free, 2s. 11d.; abroad, 3s. 4d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR G. S. W. READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

In the course of business there comes frequently the opportunity of buying large parcels of comparatively scarce stamps at bargain rates.

Hitherto such purchases have been added to stock, and have generally resulted in the reduction of the Catalogue quotations.

In future, instead of being added to stock, they will be offered as Special Bargains to our readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

ED. "G. S. W."

OUR FIFTH SPECIAL OFFER
is as follows:—

COSTA RICA.

Issue of 1901.

50 c., blue and lilac.
(J. M. Castro.)

1 colon, black and olive.

Beautiful view of tropical scenery and the bridge of Birris.



The two stamps, used,

Price 1s. 9d., post-free.

(Catalogue price, 5s. 6d. the two.)

Only one set can be supplied to each applicant.

Next number a wonderful bargain in a cheap packet.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Systematic Study

I HAVE seen a few of the programmes of the Philatelic Societies for the coming season, and I cannot help noting that not one of them goes in for what I term systematic study.

Now, why not, at one of the last meetings of a season, take a vote and decide upon devoting the greater part of the next season to the systematic study of some one interesting group of countries?

Such a concentration of study could not fail to be more profitable than the aimless, take-what-you-can-get make-up of society meetings.

In the Good Old Days

In the good old days when T. K. Tapling was a dominant force in the Philatelic Society, London, each season was given up to the study of some chosen countries. Then we each studied those countries. We concentrated our whole attention on them, and we sat down and took issue by issue from start to finish. Our work was thorough.

I know of no such work being done today.

We flit from country to country without aim or serious endeavour, and the result is that, philatelically, we are rolling stones gathering no moss, no moss of knowledge to wed us to systematic and profitable study.

Philatelic Circles

In some lines of educational effort they form little family circles for definite study.

Now this is just what lots of young collectors can do. They can, amongst their acquaintances, form little philatelic circles to meet on certain agreed days to study certain countries.

Let them at each meeting take Gibbons Catalogue and read it issue by issue with their stamp albums open before them. Let the most experienced collector read the Catalogue. Read an issue through, then discuss it. Then pass on to the next, and so on, right through a country.

In this way a country may be studied

and understood. The novices may ask questions and be helped, and the older hands may exchange information and opinion.

A leader should be appointed to the circle who is the most experienced collector, and he should make it his business to read up the country set down for study that he may be able to clear up any difficulties that may arise.

The other members should also hunt up all that has been written about the subject for study.

Proposed New Zealand Show Labels

In July last, page 39, I quoted a paragraph from a New Zealand newspaper which foreshadowed an issue of postage stamps to advertise a local exhibition.

My correspondent, Mr. Black, now tells me that when the proposal referred to was submitted to the Postmaster-General by the committee, he at once fell in with the idea and proposed to print *millions*! This, collectors will be glad to learn, was promptly sat upon by the committee, who wisely refused to have anything to do with such proceedings. They proposed, however, to have a very limited issue on sale during the exhibition, and only obtainable at the exhibition, and then only on the understanding that the remainders were to be burnt and the plates broken up!

Just so. It will be remembered that Mr. Charters moved, and a Mr. Grierson seconded, this precious scheme for fleecing stamp collectors, and one of them is said to be "an advanced" collector.

Just so. You can recognize the clover hoof in the proposal.

And the Postmaster-General with his "millions"! Bad enough, but a much more honest proceeding than the obvious dodge of a limited issue and destroyed plates.

After such a revelation of the peculiar moralities that surround the postal issues of New Zealand, those who are jealous for the good name of the colony should see to it that its reputation is not trailed

the mire and mud of the jobbery of
eculative postal issues.

gain, What's a Junior?

HAVE been plied with questions as to
when a stamp collector ceases to be a
junior," and I am quietly amused over
the problem.

"Anywhere this side the grave," is
identically the solution of the Junior Phila-
telic Society.

But you know the admission of antiqui-
ties to membership has plenty of pre-
cedents. There are, for instance, well-
known junior clubs and political and
trading concerns which are not by any
means confined to the little kiddies.

However, I am told that the Executive
Committee of the forthcoming Inter-
national Philatelic Exhibition, after many
sleepless nights, have shortened the life
of the philatelic junior to the span of
twenty-one years.

Am I Eligible?

THIS is another poser that I am faced
with. Why I should be appealed to is

not for me to say. I refer them to the
indefatigable Hon. Sec. of the Juniors.
But I believe I shall have to undertake to
see their stamps, their birth certificates,
and—their teeth, and fix up a regular
hour per week for doing the business.

Southampton Philatelic Row

As my readers are aware, the premier
Philatelic Society of London moved from
the purlieus of the Strand to Southampton
Row last season.

This season the Herts Society moves
to the same building.

And now the dealers have commenced
to migrate into the self-same road, the
first to flit thither being Mr. Nissen.
Pemberton and Co. are just around the
corner, and no doubt as soon as Kings-
way is properly opened up to Southampton
Row the others will pack up their traps
for location in "more commodious" new
premises in this popular new thoroughfare.
Where the carcass is, there will the —

Still, I have my doubts, for some wicked
ones say certain bones are not worth
picking.

THE STAMP KING

by G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XXI

*Wherein it appears that the well of truth ought to be
full of wine!*

JOHN and Victoria, having watched the carriage
containing their respective master and mistress
disappear in the distance, concluded that they had
a little time at their disposal. So they went for a
walk in the shady part of the Villa Nazionale, talking
the time.

"All the same," said Miss Betty's maid, "you have
been nice, or even honest, in this matter of the
ged stamp."

"Oh, bah! A mere trifle!"

"Trifle! Trifle! And yet you deceived Miss Betty,
deceived me, and put Mr. William Keniss in a very
poor position."

"Don't say any more about that, if you please," said
John, visibly annoyed.

"Well, look here now!" continued Victoria, in a
tone of friendly reproach. "Ah, naughty man, you
are fortunate in having some one to care for you in
the way of everything. But it is only fair that you should
make me forget your infamous fraud by giving me
a great proof of affection."

"If I can I will—willingly."

"I know you can, and you really owe it me, for you
have behaved like a —"

"Come, come to the point."

"Very well, I will. You sinned through the stamp;
you must expiate your fault by means of the stamp.
You have led me into error with the forgery; it is
only just you should tell me where the real one is."

"Never!" cried John with a tragic gesture. "Mr.
Keniss is kind enough to honour me with absolute
confidence, and I shall always do my best to deserve
it. Yes, I do know where the stamp is, but you may
as well understand, my dear, that you will never learn
it from me. I would be torn to pieces rather than
betray such a secret."

This was said in so pompous and peremptory a tone
that Victoria was intimidated and insisted no further,
for fear of intensifying the check to her diplomacy.

"At least you will not mind going about with me a
bit?" she said. "Goodness knows when we shall get
another hour's freedom, and I should rather like to
see this celebrated town of Naples."

"As much of that as ever you like."

"See Naples and die," murmured the elderly spin-
ster sentimentally, the saying appearing to her poetic
in the highest degree.

"Many thanks," laughed the good old fellow John;
"in that case I should prefer to postpone my visit till
a little later!"

"They say that because Naples is such a marvellous
city," said Victoria, returning to the practical; "but
you go on living all the same after having seen it."

"Oh, then I don't mind."

"Wait, I am going to call a fiacre." And Victoria had already advanced to the Chiaja, which runs by the side of the park, when John hastily called her back.

"No, no," cried he. "No fiacre!"

"Why?" asked Victoria. "It is only a lira and a half, and I can easily pay that."

But John, calling to mind his master's recent injunctions, energetically refused to hire a carriage for which he could not pay himself. In this case also Victoria had her trouble for nothing, and she was forced to console herself by saying in a melancholy tone—

"Then I suppose we must walk." So they sauntered through the Strada S. Caterina and the Chiaja towards S. Ferdinand.

The heat was overpowering, although the sun was on the decline and it was half-past four o'clock. All along the streets the green window-shutters were

followed them with true Neapolitan obstinacy, crying, with varied expression, "Signor! Picciola carrozza! Signor!" But all in vain. John drew himself more proudly at each of these invitations, which pierced Victoria's heart.

Suddenly, not far from the church of Santa Chiaja, after walking up a sunny ascent, the maid stopped short.

"There! I can't do one bit more!"

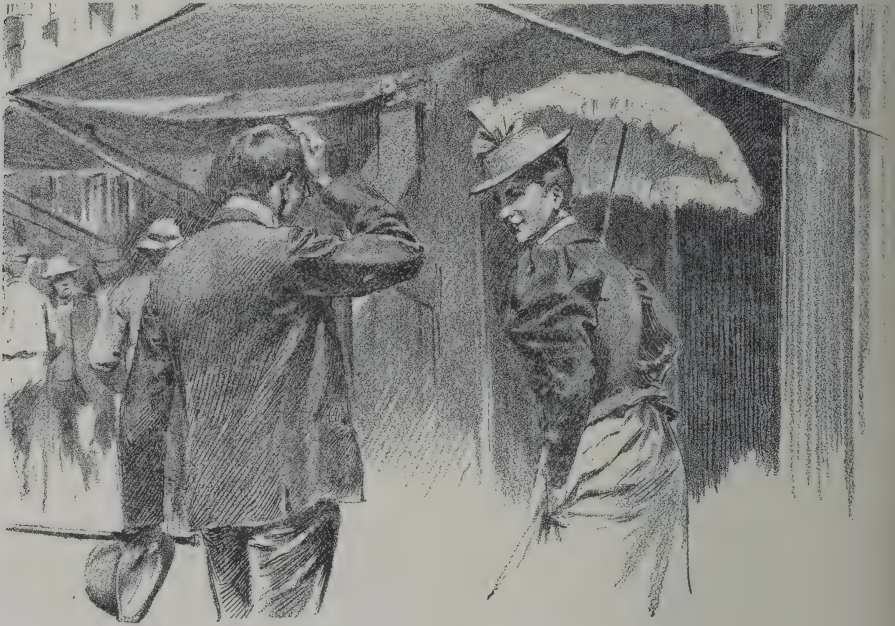
And with her already damp handkerchief she wiped her dripping forehead, where her false curls were hanging in lamentable disarray.

"In mercy, Mr. Cockburn, let us go into this cafe. I am dying with thirst."

The temptation this time was very strong, for John's own throat felt like the Sahara. But he hardened his heart and refused once more.

"No," said he, "I cannot accept anything to drink."

"Well, you needn't drink anything, but come,



THE HEAT WAS OVERPOWERING

closed; the white walls were sparkling and dazzling. The shops could scarcely be seen, being hidden behind large linen awnings, and with curtains covering the doors to keep out the flies. The two pedestrians advanced slowly over the burning flagstones with which the streets were paved. They breathed heavily and perspired as if they were walking in a furnace. So Victoria, who was not very vigorous, and John, who was inclined to corpulency, gave a discouraged "Oh!" at almost every step, and as it was uphill all the way they began to despair of ever reaching their destination.

"How wrong it was of you to insist on coming on foot," groaned the poor girl.

"Can't help it," replied John heroically. "Duty before everything."

But, in spite of all, worn out, and in a bath of perspiration, they at length reached the Palazzo Reale, whence, after a rapid glance round, they penetrated into the little cross streets between the Municipio and the Hotel des Postes. Several drivers, seeing them dragging painfully along in this trying atmosphere,

for pity's sake. You look on while I drink; this I understood. I'm too thirsty for anything."

After all, John reflected that he had no right to abandon his companion in this unknown place and more than to prevent her quenching her thirst.

"Come then," said he.

And he followed the girl into a little trattoria, determined on watching her drink her wine without faltering.

Victoria had, to commence with, great difficulty in making herself understood. The host, a crabbed Sicilian, exerted himself to utter interminable phrases in an extraordinary dialect, asking her, apparently, what she would have. Despairing of making him understand exactly what she wished for, she at length replied with a confident "Yes" to one of his unintelligible questions, upon which he disappeared through a trap-door into the cellar of the establishment, and, returning quickly, deposited on a rickety table a huge bottle holding six litres of the wine of Ravello, and two glasses. Scarcely had it appeared before the bottle was covered with dew, showing

ness of the wine it contained, which had also a most appetizing golden tint.

Seeing that his customers were not in the habit of holding so large a flask, the Sicilian took charge of it and filled the two glasses to the brim with what looked like liquid gold, and the glasses themselves were soon covered with a most inviting moisture.

Victoria seized hers eagerly and emptied it at one draught, while John stoically refrained from even taking at his.

"Oh, what nectar! I never tasted anything so exquisite in all my life."

Then, perceiving the Tantalus condition of her companion, she had pity on him.

"Come, Mr. Cockburn, give in and take a glass."

"No," said the unhappy man in a hollow voice.

"I swear, on the faith of Victoria, no one shall owe it."

John's eyes sparkled. After one supreme moment of hesitation he put out his hand and seized the tantalizing glass, murmuring—

"You are sure you won't tell?"

"I have sworn it."

Then, as in a frenzy, he swallowed the wine, and in a second glass and a third, the whole disappeared like three drops of water on a sandbank. His cheeks flushed, and the effects of the triple bumper manifested themselves in gaiety and talkativeness.

"So, so," he began, "you want to know where the stamp is to be found, do you, Miss Victoria?"

"Isn't it very natural?"

"You are all curiosity, but, though you have rated me to very good wine, I am not going to tell you."

"As you please," said Victoria calmly. "I asked you you can't tell me; so much the worse; but I can do without knowing."

"Naturally, as you will have to do without. But, in my word, I must have some more of this wine. The proof of its goodness is that it makes one thirsty."

No sooner said than done. A fourth glass rapidly followed the other three. John now began to sing, drum on the table, and to smile at Victoria.

"Well, suppose I did tell you where it is?"

"Where what is?" asked Victoria naively.

"Why, the stamp, my dear girl, the stamp! The mous stamp!"

"Oh, I don't care about it, as it might get you into trouble," said the maid, with a preoccupied air.

"Trouble? After all, I am free to say what I please, am I not? By Jove! I am thirsty!" In proof of which statement a fifth glass of wine disappeared down John's throat.

While carefully abstaining from pressing him, Victoria watched him drink, and the idea occurred to her of profiting by a circumstance she had not been purposely guilty of bringing about. By the heightened colour and increasing talkativeness of her guest she saw that the wine was exercising its usual influence, and as she was aware that people cannot stand contradiction when they have been drinking, she resolved to try it without delay.

"No, Master John," she said, "I don't wish you to tell me about the Brahmopootra stamp. I don't wish you understand? It wouldn't be honest."

"Not honest? Who says I am not honest? I am honest, I tell you, very honest!—Well, well; how thirsty I am!"

Upon which John tossed off a sixth glass.

"Did you maintain that I was not honest?" he began again, with a hiccough.

"No, no, Master John; certainly not."

"Yes, you did; you said so. Well, to show you

how honest I am, I'll just tell you where that miserable stamp is."

"No, I don't wish to know, Mr. John. It's very wrong of you."

"Oh! very wrong, is it? Well, it's at——"

Accompanying his speech with a too comprehensive gesture he had knocked over the bottle, which fell on the ground and smashed noisily, while the wine, with which it was still three-parts full, ran all about. Nothing more was needed to interrupt John's revelation and send him off into a hearty fit of laughter.

But the host came up to them, and with a furious air jabbered a number of invectives, pointing to the floor, which was inundated by the odorous contents of the huge flask. This brought John's gaiety to its height, which still more exasperated the angry Sicilian. He was advancing to seize his careless and laughing customer when Victoria slipped a piece of gold into his hand, the sight of which caused a smile to spread over his wrathful visage.

"*Grassie! Grassie!*" repeated the delighted owner of the shop, who would willingly have offered all his biggest bottles for people to break at the same price.

Then Victoria rose and took John's arm, and he allowed her to draw him into the street, laughing all the time. She pushed him into one of the carriages which had followed them and was conscientiously waiting outside.

"To the Grand Hotel," she said to the driver.

At first John, being a little stunned at this brusque treatment, sat quietly in the carriage. But suddenly, awakened by the bright daylight and the jolting of the vehicle, he jumped up, at the risk of losing his equilibrium, and began shouting—

"Yes, yes, I will tell you where that extraordinary stamp is!"

Really frightened this time, Victoria tried her best to make him sit down, saying—not now for the pleasure of contradicting him, but in the effort to calm him and prevent a dangerous fall or compromising row—

"No, my friend, my dear friend, don't say any more about it, I beseech you, but sit down."

Already a few saunterers, attracted by John's curious behaviour, as he stood up gesticulating like a madman, had stopped and watched him pass, shrugging their shoulders with a smile.

"Listen, all of you," he shouted, "and learn where this stamp is, the only one in all the world!"

"For goodness' sake be quiet!" implored Victoria.

"Quiet? Never! It would be infamous! I must speak at last, for the good of humanity. Run, run, all of you, and come and hear the good news!" And he beckoned all round to call those who were passing by to the carriage door. A few urchins ran up and excited him still more by their cries, while Victoria, quite put out of countenance, covered her face with her hands.

"Run, run!" John continued to shout at the top of his voice. And the group, which the strange equipage drew after it, grew larger every moment. Men, women, and dogs followed pell-mell, laughing or barking according to their kind, in a tumult which seemed highly to amuse the improvised orator.

At length, when he thought he had a sufficient audience, he placed himself in a commanding attitude and cried in a stentorian voice, "Albrandi has got it! Albrandi!" To which a hundred voices answered with a great shout, "*Evviva il Principe Albrandi!*"

It was a deafening clatter. John, flushed as if about to fall down in an apoplectic fit, continued to cry, "Albrandi has got it! Albrandi!" And the crowd, continually reinforced by stragglers, replied with laughter and shouts, "Albrandi! Albrandi!"

(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Herts Philatelic Society

President: F. Reichenheim, Esq.
 Secretary: H. A. Slade, Esq., "Nine-Fields," St. Albans.
 Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W.C., Third Tuesdays.
 Subscription: 5s. annually.

Programme of Meetings for 1905-6

- 1905
 Oct. 17. Display with Notes, The Unpaid Letter, Newspaper, and F.M. Stamps of France. Franz Reichenheim.
 Nov. 21. Display with Notes, West Australia. L. L. R. Hausburg.
 Dec. 18. Display with Notes, Liberia. H. L. Hayman.
 1906
 Jan. 16. Display with Notes, Ceylon. Baron Anthony de Worms.
 Jan. 16. Display with Notes, Rarities of Mexico. Rudolph Frentzel.
 Feb. 20. Display with Notes, Straits Settlements. A. Bagshawe.
 March 29. Display with Notes, Tasmania. R. B. Yardley.
 April 17. Display with Notes, Uruguay (Second Part). Thos. Wm. Hall.
 April 17. Display, Colonials. Robt. Reid.
 May? Annual Dinner.
 May 25. Annual Meeting.

Promises for papers and displays are regarded as conditional. Other meetings may be called at the discretion of the Committee.

Secretary's Report

In presenting my seventh annual report, I must begin by congratulating the members on the satisfactory progress made during the past session. Without egotism, we can claim for the Herts Society a stable position, that has been fairly earned by energetic and harmonious work. And, having become a power in the land philatelic, one must not forget that increase of *prestige* brings increase of responsibilities in its train.

Without exception, the exhibits of 1904-5 were such as could not be given by philatelists who did not possess high technical knowledge of the stamps of the countries taken up, combined with exceptional opportunities—pecuniary and otherwise—for amassing such a wealth of detail and such a variety of example.

The season was fittingly opened by the Earl of Crawford, who courteously received the members at his own residence, and gave them an opportunity of studying, at their leisure, his magnificent collection of the stamps of United States—a collection that in historical and philatelic interest has few or no equals. This display was followed by others of the highest class and interest, and in Mr. Reichenheim (France), Mr. Castle (New Zealand), Mr. Hayman (New Zealand), Mr. Wickham Jones (Sicily), Mr. Hall (Uruguay), and Mr. Yardley (Transvaal), the Herts Society was fortunate in examining specialist collections that could scarcely be improved upon. The general display, given by the members, provided an interesting and instructive evening, and the paper on "The Poetry of Stamp Collecting," by Mr. Melville, being in lighter vein, came as an agreeable contrast.

The annual dinner was held at the Café Monico, under the chairmanship of Mr. Oldfield, and attracted a record attendance. The fare provided—both edible and musical—was of the best, and speeches being ruthlessly cut down to the smallest dimensions, a most sociable evening was enjoyed by the members and friends who were present.

Several alterations have been made in the Executive Messrs. Jennings-White and Oldfield having signified their desire to be relieved of the duties of Hon. President and Hon. Vice-President, it was determined that a President and Vice-President who could regularly attend the meetings, and who could devote considerable time to the affairs of the Society, should be elected, and that such appointments should not be regarded as permanent, but rather as elective at each annual meeting.

With these ends in view, Messrs. Franz Reichenheim and H. L. Hayman were unanimously chosen as President and Vice-President respectively for the next session. Mr. Herbert R. Oldfield, in recognition of his past valuable services, was placed among the Hon. Vice-Presidents, and Mr. H. Jennings-White, at his special request, became an ordinary member of the Society.

In consequence of indifferent health, which prevented him from attending the meetings, Mr. George Haynes was regretfully relieved of the onerous duties of Hon. Librarian. The post was conferred on Mr. J. C. Sidebotham, who volunteered his services, and whose residence at 28, Great Ormond Street, W.C., within easy distance of our new rooms at No. 4, Southampton Row, W.C. Books and papers can henceforth be brought to the meetings for reference with dispatch and convenience. I may mention that the library has lately been largely increased, and I hope that more donations of useful books will be forthcoming, and that more applications for books will be made by members than has hitherto been the case. A complete list of the books in the library will be found in the annual report.

Mr. A. G. Wane (Manager of Barclay and Cocks Bank at New Barnet and Trustee of the Exhibition Fund) was elected Hon. Auditor in place of Mr. William Archibald Boyes, who was elected a member of the Committee.

The proposal that a permanent collection—used and unused, adhesives only—be formed by the Society, and that it be placed in Stanley Gibbons's Imperia Albums, was carried at the annual meeting, and should prove an important innovation. The mounting and arranging of the stamps will be entrusted to a small committee (to be appointed later), and a safe, if necessary, will be purchased for the custody of the albums. All duplicates will be disposed of, by sale or exchange, to the best advantage, and the collection will always be at the disposal of members for inspection or study. Names of donors will be published in the annual report.

By the members' assistance, this collection should soon form a valuable and interesting asset of the Society, and any stamps you may care to send to me for inclusion will promptly be acknowledged. Naturally, in beginning a general collection, the very common varieties will be useful; but whatever stamps are sent should be in fair condition. I am pleased to report that large numbers of stamps have already been sent in.

Resignations have been very few during the past season, and thirty-four new members have been enrolled. I regret to record that death has removed Messrs. Gordon Smith and Lewis Marks—two of the oldest members of the H.P.S.—from our midst.

The accommodation at Anderton's Hotel not proving adequate, the head-quarters of the Society have been transferred to No. 4, Southampton Row, W.C., where a commodious and well-lighted room has been placed at our disposal. The dates for meeting—the third Tuesday in each month from October to May inclusive—remain unchanged.

The Philatelic Society of London, by appointing your Hon. Secretary as a member of the Working

Committee of the London International Exhibition 1906, has paid us a compliment which will, I am sure, be highly appreciated. Is it unreasonable to hope that many of our members may be reckoned medallists of that Exhibition?

I have to thank the editors of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* and the *London Philatelist* for inserting occasional reports of meetings, etc., of the Society. Publicity has thus been obtained which otherwise we could not have enjoyed. The Committee adhere to their resolution not to appoint any particular journal as their "official organ," but are happy to state that certain editors have agreed to supply their publication to members at a reduced subscription:—*The London Philatelist*, 4s. 2d. per annum, post-free; *The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, 2s. 2d. per annum, post-free; *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, 2s. per annum, post-free; *The Stamp Collector*, 1s. 9d. per annum, post-free; *The Philatelic Chronicle*, 1s. per annum, post-free; *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, 2s. per annum, post-free.

Members who propose to become subscribers at these rates are specially requested to forward the amount of their subscriptions TO ME, EITHER AT ONCE BEFORE JANUARY 1ST, 1906, and I will make arrangements that the papers desired are sent to them regularly by post.

H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Secretary.*

Treasurer's Report

As Hon. Treasurer, I am pleased to report that the financial position of the Society is perfectly satisfactory. All accounts have been settled, and the balance in hand shows an increase from that of last year. But I must point out that as our change of headquarters to 4, Southampton Row, necessitates a heavier expenditure; this can only be met by an increased revenue—or in other words by an increase in the number of subscriptions.

Our membership shows steady progress, year by year, but this result, I regret to say, is entirely due to the energy of but a very few members. Were a little more enthusiasm displayed in this direction, the Herts Society would be second to none, both in quantity as well as in quality. So, for the second time, I suggest that every single member should make a special effort to nominate at least one of his friends for whom he can vouch, for election, at the October meeting.

This, of course, entails some little trouble, but it would give a splendid fillip to the Society by the introduction of new blood. To aid this endeavour, an extra copy of the report is forwarded herewith for distribution, and more will be supplied on demand. It must be understood that, in all cases, references will be required, and strict inquiries made in the interests of the Society; these precautions are exacted by the rules, and should not be misinterpreted by applicants. A statement of accounts is attached herewith.

H. A. SLADE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Statement of Accounts for period October 1st, 1904, to September 30th, 1905

| RECEIPTS. | £ | s. | d. | EXPENDITURE. | £ | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Carried forward from last account | 33 | 17 | 4 | Accommodation at Anderson's Hotel | 3 | 13 | 6 |
| Subscription fund account | 8 | 19 | 5 | Posting annual reports | 1 | 16 | 1 |
| Interest | 0 | 7 | 2 | Posting notices, etc. | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Annual subscriptions | 32 | 12 | 6 | General postages | 4 | 11 | 5 |
| Life subscription | 2 | 2 | 0 | Printing & stationery | 16 | 3 | 5 |
| | 35 | 14 | 6 | Clerical expenses | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | Dinner expenses | 4 | 17 | 0 |
| | | | | By balance | 40 | 1 | 7 |
| | 78 | 18 | 5 | | 78 | 18 | 5 |

Audited and found correct.

GEORGE GAFFE, } *Hon. Auditors.*
A. G. WANE, }

June 20th, 1905.

Meetings during 1904-5

During the session 1904-5 the following meetings were held: Eight general meetings, nine Committee meetings, one annual meeting, one audit meeting.

Attendances

The attendances of members at the meetings were:—

| | Oct. 18, 1904 | ... | No. of members present | 41 |
|--|---------------|-----|------------------------|----|
| Nov. 18 | " | " | " | 24 |
| Dec. 20 | " | " | " | 31 |
| Jan. 17, 1905 | " | " | " | 25 |
| Feb. 21 | " | " | " | 29 |
| March 21 | " | " | " | 25 |
| April 18 | " | " | " | 27 |
| Annual dinner, May 9 | " | " | " | 47 |
| Annual meeting, " 16 | " | " | " | 17 |
| Average attendance of members for 1904-5 | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| " Committee | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

Exchange Section

Members have contributed fairly well to the Exchange Packets, but it is confidently anticipated that this branch of the Society will find more favour in the eyes of members in the future than it has in the past. All members are entitled to contribute selections and to see packets without extra charge; circulation of packets does not extend beyond thirteen weeks, and sheets are returned and accounts are settled within seven days. Without turning the Herts Philatelic Society into an exchange society pure and simple, I should like to see the value of the monthly packets mount up to four figures. Considering the members we possess, there is nothing to prevent this. The tabular statement given below shows the value of the packets circulated and the amount of stamps sold in each case.

| Month. | Value of Packets. | Sales. |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| October, 1904 | 814 14 2 | 89 9 5 |
| November | 976 16 1 | 91 4 2 |
| December | 919 10 10 | 97 3 4 |
| January, 1905 | 842 5 6 | 91 15 1 |
| February | 798 4 3 | 86 16 8 |
| March | 659 2 1 | 77 13 2 |
| April | 891 4 4 | 81 15 3 |
| May | 817 19 5 | 76 6 7 |
| | £6719 16 8 | £692 3 8 |

Average Value of Packets ... £839 19 7

Average Sales ... £86 10 4

In October next it is proposed to inaugurate a series of *Advanced Packets* on the following lines:—(1) The number of sheets in each packet to be confined to fifteen. (2) Not more than fifteen members to see each packet. (3) Packets not to be in circulation longer than one month. (4) Stamps on sheets to be marked at net prices. (5) No stamps of less value than 1s. net to be included on the sheets. (6) Settlements to be made within one week of return of packets. (7) Special sheets for preservation of stamps to be provided.

Those members who wish to see or contribute to these packets on above conditions are requested to communicate with the Hon. Sec. without delay. Applications will be referred to the Committee for approval.

Black Book

The Black Book for the collection of forgeries, reprints, and bogus issues has received many additions during the past season, and now contains a valuable and representative collection. This book, which belongs to the Society, has been placed under the care of Mr. W. G. Cool. It will be brought to every meeting for examination by members, and has proved very useful for reference. May I ask that all such labels as are not required may be put aside and transmitted to me or to Mr. Cool? Donations will be gratefully acknowledged, and any duplicates can readily be exchanged with other Societies.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Glendining's First Sale

THE first auction of the season 1905-6 was held at Messrs. Glendining and Co.'s Galleries, 7, Argyll Street, Regent Street, London, W., on September 18th, 19th, and 20th. The bulk of the stamps sold consisted of the collection of Mr. C. A. Smith-Ryland, a well-known amateur of the Midland Counties. Prices were considered to rule very good, considering the condition of the stamps. The following are some of the most notable prices:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| France, 1849, 1 franc, orange-brown, unused, no gum | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1872, 10 and 15 c., bistre and rose, an unsevered pair, mint | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| Great Britain, 1d., "V.R." | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, Board of Education, King's Head, 5d. | 4 | 5 | 0 |
| Saxony, 1851, error of paper, $\frac{1}{2}$ neugr., pale blue, unused | 56 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain, 1865, 12 c., imperf., frame inverted, used, slightly thinned | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| Switzerland, Zurich, 4 r., horizontal lines, used | 9 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, Geneva, 5 + 5 c., yellow-green, used | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, Geneva (Vaud), 4 c., black and red, used | 14 | 10 | 0 |
| Tuscany, 3 lire, unused, but rather short and not very fine | 51 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 3 lire, used, torn and cut short | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Ceylon, 6d., bistre-brown, watermark Star, rough perf., unused | 8 | 10 | 0 |
| Labuan, 1879, 2 c., blue-green, unused | 3 | 7 | 6 |
| Ditto, 1879, 12 c., unused, no gum | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| B.C.A., 1895, no watermark, £10, vermilion, mint | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1895, £25, brown, watermark Crown CA | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1d., red and blue, cheque stamp with centre inverted, unused, no gum | 47 | 0 | 0 |

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Cape of Good Hope, 1861, woodblock, 1d., blue, £ | s. | d. |
| error, used, but cut into on left | 38 | 0 |
| Ditto, 4d., pale blue, retouched in one corner | 15 | 0 |
| Ditto, 4d., deep blue, unused, but rather stained and dirty on face | 23 | 0 |
| Seychelles, 1901, 3 c. on 16 c., block of four stamps, also error with surcharge | 5 | 5 |
| Uganda, 1896, vertical strip, containing all values, 5 to 100 cowries, unused | 28 | 0 |
| Confederate States, Baton Rouge, 5 c., used on letter | 7 | 0 |
| Ditto, Lynchburg, 5 c., used on letter | 6 | 0 |
| Ditto, Nashville, 5 c., brown, used on portion of original | 2 | 17 |
| Ditto, Petersburg, 5 c., on original | 1 | 18 |
| Hayti, 50 c., purple, tête-bêche pair, unused | 3 | 10 |
| Newfoundland, 2d., scarlet-vermilion, used | 6 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, used | 11 | 15 |
| St. Vincent, 1880, 5 c., rose-red | 9 | 10 |
| Turks Islands, 2½ d. on 1s., lilac | 5 | 15 |
| United States, 1851, 5 c., lake-brown, fine, unused | 6 | 10 |
| Ditto, 1869, 15 c., with inverted centre, used, but badly centred, design being cut into on left | 12 | 10 |
| Ditto, Periodicals, 1875, complete set | 16 | 10 |
| New South Wales, 1854, 5d., green, large, clear, imperf., unused | 8 | 2 |
| Queensland, 1862, no watermark, 1d., Indian red, unused | 7 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1862, 2d., pale blue, unused | 4 | 15 |
| South Australia, 9d. on 10d., black surcharge, inverted, used and badly centred, slightly damaged | 9 | 0 |

The total amount realized by this sale was just on £2000, and this was one of the largest and most valuable collections that have been sold by auction for some considerable time.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

OCTOBER, 1905

- 10 & 11. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
 12 & 13. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, London. 5 p.m.
 13. Manchester Philatelic Society: Display, with notes, Tonga. J. H. Abbott.
 16. Auction: Douglas Cook and Co., 562, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. 6.30 p.m.
 17 & 18. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
 19 & 20. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

20. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion, Barbados. Opened by G. L. Campbell, jun.
 24 & 25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
 26 & 27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, London. 5 p.m.
 27. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper, Chili from 1897. R. Albrecht.
 31. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S PACKET.

No. 66, 500 varieties, is strongly recommended as the cheapest collection of 500 different Stamps ever offered—the Stamps could not be bought separately for three times the marvellously low price at which it is now offered. The Stamps, etc., are clean, picked specimens fit for any collection. The best 500 varieties in the trade. 4s. 1d., post-free.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 16
Whole No. 41

14 OCTOBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD by EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Austrian Levant

BY a slip the stamps of the Azores got in front of those of the Austrian Levant in *G.S.W.* of 30 September.

I must, therefore, now round up the issues of Austria with a brief account of those stamps set apart for use in the Austrian Post Offices in the Turkish Empire. They appear under different heads in different catalogues. Properly speaking, they come under the designation of Austrian Post Offices in the Turkish Empire," but as that is rather a mouthful, in common with others we will shorten to Austrian Levant.

Mr. Westoby gives the following as the full list of the offices included in this range:—

DANUBIAN PROVINCES

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Bakau | Giurgevo |
| Berlat | Ibralia |
| Botuschany | Jassy |
| Bucharest | Piatra |
| Fokschany | Ploesti |
| Galatz | Roman |

EUROPEAN TURKEY

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Adrianople | Larnaca |
| Antivari | Philippopolis |
| Burgas | Prevesa |
| Candia | Retimo |
| Canea | Rustchuk |
| Cavalle | Salonica |
| Constantinople | Seres |
| Czernavoda | Sofia |
| Dardanelles | Sulina |
| Durazzo | Tultcha |
| Gallipoli | Valona |
| Janina | Varna |
| Kustendji | Volo |
| Lagos | |

ASIATIC TURKEY

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Alexandretta | Ineboli |
| Beyrouth | Jaffa |
| Caiffa | Jerusalem |
| Chios | Latakia |

Mersina
Mitylene
Rhodes
Samsun
Sinope

Smyrna
Tenedos
Trebizond
Tripoli

EGYPT
Alexandria

In 1866 Austria lost the last of its possessions in Italy, and therefore there was no further need for the series in soldi in that direction, but the stamps of that currency were then continued for Austrian post offices in the Turkish Empire.

In 1886 the currency was changed to the Turkish designations of paras and piastres, and to these, in 1903, were added stamps overprinted in the centimes and francs of French currency for use in Crete.

1867. Seven values. Design, head of Emperor Francis Joseph in profile to right. Mutton-chop whiskers and moustache. Value in soldi. The 2, 3, 5, 10, 15, and 25 soldi in the small type and the 50 in the larger size. Watermarked BRIEFMARKEN in double-lined capitals across the sheet. The young collector need not bother about this watermark. I mention it in case he should notice one of the letters on a stamp and be puzzled to account for it. Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 2 soldi, yellow | | 0 3 | 0 6 |
| 3 " green | | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 5 " rose | | 0 6 | 0 3 |
| 10 " blue | | 1 0 | 0 1 |
| 15 " brown | | 1 0 | 0 4 |
| 25 " lilac | | 1 6 | 0 6 |
| 50 " brown | | 5 0 | 2 0 |

1883. Six values. Design, a large numeral within a shield on the Arms of the Empire, a double-headed eagle surmounted by a crown. The inscription and figures of value were overprinted in black. Perforated.



| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 2 soldi, brown | | 0 2 | 0 3 |
| 3 " green | | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 5 " rose | | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 10 " blue | | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 20 " grey | | 1 0 | 0 5 |
| 50 " mauve | | 2 0 | 1 0 |

1886-96. Various stamps overprinted in black in Turkish currency. Perforated.



Type 1.



Type 2.



Type 3.



Type 4.



Type 5.

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 par. on 3 soldi, green; Type 1 | | 0 3 | 0 0 |
| 10 " on 3 kr. " 2 | | 0 2 | 0 0 |
| 20 " on 5 " rose " " | | 0 3 | 0 0 |
| 1 pias. on 10 " blue " " | | 0 6 | 0 0 |
| 2 " on 20 " grey " " | | 1 0 | 0 0 |
| 5 " on 50 " mauve " " | | 2 6 | 1 0 |
| 8 par. on 2 " brown " 3 | | 0 1 | 0 0 |
| 10 " on 3 " green " " | | 0 2 | 0 0 |
| 20 " on 5 " rose " " | | — | 0 0 |
| 1 pias. on 10 " blue " " | | 0 4 | 0 0 |
| 2 " on 20 " olive " 4 | | 0 9 | 0 0 |
| 5 " on 50 " mauve " " | | 1 3 | 0 0 |
| 10 " on 1 g. blue " 5 | | 3 6 | 0 0 |
| 20 " on 2 " carmine " " | | 5 0 | 4 0 |
| 10 " on 1 " lilac " " | | 3 6 | 1 0 |
| 20 " on 2 " green " " | | 6 0 | 3 0 |

1900. Austrian issues of 1899-1900 surcharged as before.

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 par. on 5 h., green | | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 20 " on 10 h., rose | | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 1 pias. on 25 h., ultramarine | | 0 4 | 0 2 |
| 2 " on 50 h., blue | | 0 6 | 0 3 |
| 5 " on 1 kron., rose | | 1 3 | 0 4 |
| 10 " on 2 kron., lavender | | 3 0 | 1 6 |
| 20 " on 4 kron., green | | 6 0 | 1 6 |

1904. Austrian stamps with all the corner figures of value removed and overprinted in Turkish currency.

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 par., green | | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 20 " rose | | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 1 pias., ultramarine | | 0 5 | 0 3 |
| 2 " blue | | 0 10 | 0 3 |

1903-5. Austrian stamps overprinted in black (as illustrated) in French currency, centimes and francs, for use Crete.

5 — 5

10 — 10

CENTIMES
5 — 5CENTIMES
10 — 10

50 — 50

CENTIMES
50 — 50

FRANC

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 5 c. on 5 h., green | | 0 1 | — |
| 10 " on 10 h., rose | | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 25 " on 25 h., ultramarine | | 0 6 | 0 3 |
| 50 " on 50 h., blue | | 1 0 | 0 6 |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

ALBUMS

By REV. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

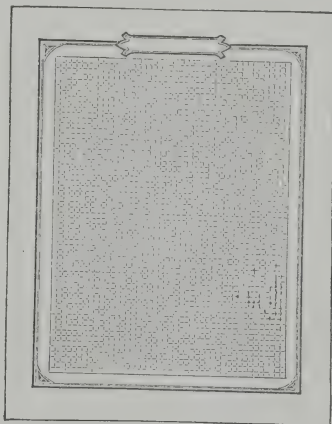
(Continued from page 227.)

Blank Albums

FOR those who desire to give fancy a free rein and arrange their collections according to their individual tastes, the enterprising manufacturer has provided the Blank Album. The latter is found in two kinds. In one the leaves are fixed, while the other is so made that the leaves may be removed and others substituted at will. There is much to be said in favour of the Blank Album. It suits itself to the wishes of the collector. Does he wish to collect used and unused pairs and blocks? The blank sheet, with its tint background of tiny squares, invites him to work his will. The very neatness of the page inspires him with a desire to display his stamps in the most attractive and painstaking way. The one objection, until recently, was the price of these Blank Albums. Thirty shillings was about the best figure at which they could be obtained. They were of the interchangeable kind. The leaves had to be threaded on metal spikes or fastened by a patent clip (which is much preferable), and the binding had to be of a specially durable nature, to stand the wear and tear involved in the removal of leaves. Besides, the pages had to be linen-jointed, so that the leaves might lie flat when the album was open. They were largely used by specialists, and, *ipso facto*, were shunned by the rank and file. Now, however, it is possible to get a Blank Album with fixed leaves at one-fourth of the price of these movable-leaf albums. Those who are in want of such an album cannot do better than send to "Gibbons" for one. The one with 100

leaves will hold about 3600 stamps, and costs 7s. 6d. A larger one, to hold about 5400 stamps, may be had for half a guinea. Of course, I do not say that these fixed-leaf Blank Albums are as good as those with movable leaves, but considering the difference in price, I would unhesitatingly say that the "fixed-leaf blank" is splendid value for any one who cannot afford the patent interchangeable album, the ideal among albums.

My theme is concluded. I have done my best to bring before the readers of *G.S.W.* the different forms of albums known to me. If I have unwittingly offended the susceptibilities of any one by omitting any mention of his particular form of album, I can only bring forward the plea of ignorance. What I have written is the result of many years' experience, and I trust it will be some help to those who are still in doubt as to the exact form of album they will adopt.



PAGE FROM BLANK-LEAF ALBUM

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to five blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. Size, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

COLOUR-NAMES

By B. W. WARHURST

THE remarks by "Cornelius Wrinkle" on colours, at p. 200, have interested me, as most references to the subject do, so many people like him considering "The Colour Problem" such "A Big Business" as the paragraph headings tell us—while to me the difficulty as to being able to produce a sheet of simple colours as a "standard" seems mostly imaginary. The real difficulty is in getting chroniclers of new issues, dealers, and collectors generally to *use* any correct terms that may be agreed on. Take one page of the *Colour Dictionary* (several times referred to in your pages), which gives four colours as types of lilac, mauve, violet, and purple, in as clear and distinct hues as is possible, which everybody agrees to as correct. Every chronicler in English journals, I believe, and every cataloguer has had that book by him for five years past, yet the same jumble goes on with all the new entries—largely due, it must be admitted, to their taking their lists from foreign chroniclers, whose ideas as to colour-names are worse than our own.

Mauve or purple tints are still called lilac, violet is called purple, "lilac-brown" is given as a real thing, which would literally be a *blue*-brown, but is, in fact, a purple-brown; lilac-rose is used for a dull or faded red tint, red-violet is given where the single word mauve or purple would be simpler, and I see "purple-blue" in the catalogues, but cannot secure a specimen of the stamps, they are so rare, as they *must* be, unless it is plain violet that is meant.

What is most wanted is a *correction* of some hundreds of colour-names as now printed in catalogues; everybody who uses the lists would then have a "popular educator" on the colour question, more reliable than the most grandiose and expensive chart. It is the numerous mis-descriptions given during quarter of a century past that have misled collectors and fogged them as to the correct colours represented by certain names. There are "charts" showing 500 to 1000 gradings of colours, absolutely useless to the tens of thousands of collectors in every country

for want of simple names, even if every one had a copy of such a costly book, to be reliable it would be costly. Years ago I planned heaps of "geometrical designs" on the lines of a suggestion quoted by you, and prepared estimates for printing them, amounting to hundreds of pounds per thousand copies. At p. 1 of the *Colour Dictionary* you will find an advocacy of the committee that Cornelius now tells us must come, but not more than 100 colours (60 to 80 are ample) should be fixed upon as general standards—types of colour-names, a fair margin, up and down or right and left, so to speak, being intended to be covered by each name. Then with the common prefixes of pale, light, deep, dark, dull, bright, etc., and the combinations of the "type" names, close on a thousand different tints and shades can be easily and safely described, if once the public gets the main types ingrained on its (or their) memory tablets. Take the four colours above named; you can increase the list for intermediate tints or shades by using lilac-mauve and mauve-lilac between the first two, then mauve-violet and violet-mauve, purple-mauve and mauve-purple, making six more simple names; by using the other prefixes given you have a range of at least forty tints easily named and recognizable by an intelligent schoolboy, starting from four distinct colours that anybody should easily carry in his or her memory.

Neither you, sir, nor friend Cornelius carry about with you copies of the rules of grammar you learned some decades ago; but there is no evidence of lack of knowledge of those rules in your writing (I forgot mine fifty years ago), so it would or should be with rules or types of colours and their many combinations of names once mastered. Many collectors know at a glance the different perforations of the stamps they handle. The difference between $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 14 is simple; even between 12 and 13 is recognizable without a gauge, and some can tell to a millimetre the differences in lengths of surcharges without a measurer. To such men the main shades of colours as meant by the name

ven, if according to a standard such as here recommended of about seventy main types, would be perfectly simple. I am now a feeble old man, if a thousand different stamps were submitted to me, I would give intelligible names for each and mark them, and, if then mixed again, would undertake to rearrange them by their colour-names, to within a margin of five per cent. for doubtfuls, without any reference to a colour chart, merely from past memories and the use

of a pair of clear eyes. But so long as cataloguers give blue names to red stamps and *vice versa*, and prefix others with yellow and other tints where there is absolutely *no trace* of such tints—a common instance is our current $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp, which is *not* yellow-green, but simply light green—so long will it be hopeless to try to educate collectors on the colour question by formidable charts, even if prepared by a Royal Commission specially appointed for the purpose.

ANGLE-NOOK YARNS

COLLECTOR'S RED-LETTER DAYS

by FELIX

In a former article I mentioned a regular and profitable way of collecting stamps, namely, by becoming a secretary to a stamp club. But there are other side ways of obtaining stamps equally honest and open to all individuals of ordinary intelligence.

It may be taken as a fact that all dealers are liable to error, especially those who have not a large staff of experts to catalogue their goods correctly, and many stamps of high value pass away to intelligent purchasers for less than their real value. This argument holds good, not only in stamps, but in pictures, books, gems, china, and curios generally.

It was not long ago that I purchased a historical gold ring from one of the newest diamond merchants in England at its money value by weight. In Surat, India, I have found valuable china mixed with an ordinary toilet service, and bought the lot for a rupee. At Jeypore, a genuine Ferrara sword-blade was sold for a few annas, and in district Indian post offices I have found obsolete stamps which ought to have been returned years ago to Calcutta for destruction.

Every one knows the red and blue 1 anna, the catalogue value of which is over £5, yet few people are aware that blocks of that valuable stamp were traced nine years ago by an indefatigable postal official (Mr. H——) to the India Office itself.

The aforesaid stamps had been obsolete over thirty years, and the whole stock

was supposed to have been sent to Calcutta and destroyed, but Mr. H——, by a process of close reasoning, came to the conclusion that a portion of the valued issue still remained in London, and his surmise proved correct. He received a present of a block, and the remainder was destroyed. I believe the block was given him on certain conditions, one of which was that it should not be sold.

In the above circumstances, it is not surprising that laxity prevailed in Indian district offices, for in the years following the Mutiny, and during the Mutiny, records were lost, and the returns were not so strictly scrutinized.

Like racing men, collectors are wont to announce their gains, but say little of their losses, and I will do the same; for no collector, however careful he is, can always score a victory.

About eight years ago, I was residing in a little Hampshire town and enjoying a conversation on stamps with a local dealer. He was telling me of a disappointment in the following language:—

“There was an auction to-day, of a deceased man's effects. He had collected English and Colonial stamps for years. I inquired from his widow, and she knew nothing of any stamps amongst the sundries, but was aware that her late husband kept stamps *somewhere*.”

I asked the dealer if there had been any books for sale in the auction, and he replied: “Yes, but I found no trace of any stamps amongst them.”

After leaving the shop, I went to the

auctioneer, and found out that before the dealer had presented himself at the auction a small lot of books had been sold and taken away by a poor woman who had paid two shillings for the same.

I had no difficulty in finding the lady, who informed me that her sole reason for buying the lot was her desire to obtain a certain cookery-book amongst it, and that I was quite welcome to the remainder for one shilling.

The books—copy-books, yellow-backed novels, etc.—were produced for my inspection. A hurried glance at the copy-books was enough for me, and I walked off with all save the cookery-book.

The catalogue value of the stamps plastered roughly in the copy-books exceeded £40, and my inquisitiveness was rewarded.

I never mentioned the above facts to the dealer, as I thought it *might* cause him a sleepless night.

I now come to another and more valuable haul which, under favourable circumstances, might have been still more fruitful.

A certain lawyer in Sussex died, and dealers from all parts of the world came to purchase his effects, which were put up to auction.

Rare china, rare pictures, and tapestries were there, coins of all ages, and curios from all parts of the world, but no stamps. I made a purchase of a Parian statue, etc., and having been told to call for my goods on the following day, left the premises. As I was carefully removing my statue, etc., I noticed a wagon standing in front of the house containing vast bundles of paper wrapped in rough canvas sacks, and in the gutter I saw on an envelope a *twopenny blue without lines*. I became inquisitive at once, and discovered that the late lawyer had kept *all* his correspondence and covers in his cellars, and that the paper had been sold by private treaty to two people, one a local purchaser, the other, a London man whose portion had already been dispatched.

I went with the cart to the local purchaser, and asked him to let me search the bundles for any stamps which might be of use to me, and offered him five shillings to do so. He agreed, and my reward was far greater than I anticipated. The stamps were mostly English of the earliest issues including high values, but

there was a large number of Australia and Ceylon stamps also of great value, far exceeding in worth my find in Hampshire.

I now took steps to trace the remainder of the paper. The auctioneer gave me the address of the London firm, but, alas, before my letter reached the office the paper had been disintegrated and stamped worth a large sum destroyed.

My readers may, by the above, gather that a rag-and-bone merchant's shop is one of the best places in the world to find rare stamps. Secondly, that there are many long-established London lawyers who even now possess wrappers and stamps which are worth more than their weight in diamonds.

I have also found country folk, whose children have emigrated to the States or Australia, very fond of keeping ever an envelope and letter from abroad; and although they are disinclined to part with the wrappers, do not mind the stamp being removed.

I have had many disappointments, but "taking one consideration with another the balance is much in my favour. I would advise all purchasers of stamps on the Continent to beware of forgeries, and never to pay for any high-value stamp without an agreement that, should Stanley Gibbons declare it to be a forgery, the bargain must be at an end.

Before I adopted the method above mentioned, a strange piece of luck fell to me at Boulogne. I was purchasing a lot of three-cornered Capes from a dealer who apparently was no expert. On a stamp, a red three-cornered, appeared very rough in the printing, and the dealer threw it in with the others, saying, "I am not quite sure whether it is genuine. I am inclined to adjudge it a forgery, so I will not charge you for it."

The stamp in question turned out to be a genuine fine woodblock.

Owing to a narrow escape of my collection by fire, I have ceased to collect stamps regularly. In disposing of the lot I obtained far better prices from first class dealers than from private collectors. Sometimes, however, I am tempted to purchase good individual stamps when I realize them to be genuine bargains, and I allow my friends to have the benefit of forty years' experience. I now collect less inflammable but equally interesting curios.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

by CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Africa: Part III"

ew young collectors are likely to buy the forthcoming *magnum opus* of the Philatelic Society of London—*Africa: Part III*. Nevertheless they will be interested in hearing that it will be a notable work. It will embrace the philatelic history of the following countries:—

Oil Rivers and Niger Coast
Protectorate.

New Republic.

Northern Nigeria.

Orange Free State.

Orange River Colony.

St. Helena.

Seychelles.

Sierra Leone.

Southern Nigeria.

Stellaland.

Swaziland.

South African Republic.

Transvaal.

Uganda Protectorate.

Zanzibar.

Zululand.

There will be thirty full-sized plates of exquisite reproductions. Only 750 copies will be printed: of these 300 will be wanted for members of the publishing society, and only 450 will remain for sale to the public. The price is to be 3s. 6d. for prepaid orders and £2 when published.

Box and Cox Philatelic Societies

THE Box and Cox arrangement of the Philatelic Society of London and the Herts Philatelic Society starts this season. Both societies will occupy the same room, only, in true Box and Cox fashion, on different evenings; for instance, on Tuesday the 17th October Mr. F. Reichenham will give a display and hold forth on the undreamt-of beauty of the F.M. and newspaper stamps of *la belle France*; then on the Friday following he will give the selfsame entertainment to the members of the Herts Society.

Southampton Philatelic Avenue

I AM reminded that not only do the Box and Cox Philatelic Societies meet in the same room in Southampton Row, and a dealer hang up his sign on the opposite side of the street, but another dealer—one several-initialed Smith—has moved from the purlieus of the Strand into the selfsame building.

Further, some members of the General Committee of the International Philatelic Exhibition, standing in the doorway of No. 4, Southampton Row, espied the name of "Gibbons" over a shop opposite.

Another member pointed out that it was only a worker in brass, and not the great stamp firm.

"Still," said another, "it may be a branch, for the Strand firm is noted for its brass."

When he was young

I WAS dining with a few choice philatelic spirits the other day, when one of them grew reminiscent, and admitted that when a philatelic nipper, a knowing one had palmed off on him an old hat-label as a rare value of the large-figure first issue of Brazil. But you could not take him in with a hat-label now.

Not Explicit Enough

In parsing, when I was a kid at school, we often tumbled across things that were understood, but not expressed. And the same phenomenon seemingly prevails to-day in other directions; for instance, the prospectus of the International Philatelic Exhibition says the charge for space will be 4d. for each square foot, without saying whether it is cubic or superficial measure.

My exhibit would come nicely into a cubic foot, but I am afraid the Committee might cube the lot if I sent the cards in with a modest groat.

No More Medals

BE it noted that the official medals will be the only medals awarded at the International Philatelic Exhibition, and a good thing too, for the plethora of medals heaped up by advertisement seekers in past exhibitions created a general nausea. So plentiful were they that if you exhibited an old tom cat as a philatelic curiosity you could have counted on a medal to a dead certainty.

A Forger Trapped by a Stamp

HERE is an interesting case from the *Times* of Ceylon of a forger being trapped by a postage stamp :—

The Chief Justice was engaged yesterday, at the Kandy Supreme Court, in hearing a case of some interest. A woman named Ukku was charged with uttering a forged document, viz. a forged receipt, bearing a 5 cent King's Head stamp, with the date 21 February, 1903.

Mr. J. Perera, head clerk of the Stamp Department of the Treasury, deposed that no King's Head stamps were in circulation on or before the date stated in the receipt. These stamps were received in the island on 3 March, 1903, and were first issued on 2 July, 1903. He could not understand how a 5 cent King's Head stamp came to be affixed to a receipt prior to the date of circulation.

The woman, however, was found "not guilty" by the jury, and his lordship discharged her.—*Kandy Cor.*, 30 August.

It is fortunate that our friend Ukka was not a philatelist.

Shop-window Stamps

THE *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* very wisely questions the wisdom of cataloguing any but the most prominent

shades, and asserts that many shades are due to fading.

The young collector will, of course, not bother about shades at all, for they are the best difficult for all but the specialist to handle safely.

The most extraordinary fades result from the exposure of stamps in shop windows. In fact, very few, if any, of our colonial stamps will stand such exposure. *Ergo*, boys will do well to be careful in buying from shop-window lot.

But the most extraordinary fade I have seen is a copy of our *G. S. W.* in Gibbon Strand shop window, the green cover having turned into a sort of buff colour.

Chalk-surfaced Paper

OF course, every young collector wants to know if he should go in for stamps of chalk-surfaced paper. My advice is certainly not. Even I, who am a hardened sinner of a specialist, am hesitating whether I will bother about it.

Here is what Major Evans says about it in the *Monthly Journal*, which is written by specialists for specialists :—

We shall have to chronicle stamps upon this paper as they appear, and no doubt they will find their way into the Catalogue; but it is well to warn our readers that the chalk-surfaced, or enamelled, papers that have been used in some of the Australian colonies and elsewhere, are very variable in the amount of enamelling that they show, and that in used copies it is sometimes impossible to detect it. Thus, as time goes on, we may frequently meet with stamps that must have been printed on chalk-surfaced paper, but which may show no sign of it; and under these circumstances it may fairly be considered a question whether this variety of paper is to be considered having any importance except for the most advanced specialists.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII., or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$; available for mounting stamps, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The present edition is arranged in three volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which a commodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publisher's Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL BARGAINS

FOR G. S. W. READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

In the course of business there comes frequently the opportunity of buying large parcels of comparatively scarce stamps at bargain rates.

Hitherto such purchases have been added to stock, and have generally resulted in the reduction of the Catalogue quotations.

In future, instead of being added to stock, they will be offered as Special Bargains to our readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they detach their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

ED. "G. S. W."

OUR SIXTH SPECIAL OFFER

is as follows:—

A FINE PACKET OF 1000 DIFFERENT STAMPS,

containing, amongst other things, 11 Argentine, 35 Austria, 4 Bosnia, 24 Hungary, a rare set of 12 Belgium Railway stamps, 12 Colombian, 37 French Colonials, Germany large 1 and 2 marks, 7 Dutch Colonies, 25 Japanese, 43 obsolete Spanish Colonies, etc.

The Catalogue price of this fine packet is between £4 10s. and £5, and we are able to offer a few of these packets at the unprecedentedly low price of

11s. each, post-free.

The stamps are all arranged and mounted in a book ready to transfer to a collection.

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1500 different Stamps form a splendid start for any one. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection; it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and registered.

THE CENTURY ALBUM.

Including a full Descriptive Catalogue, and illustrated with several thousand full-sized reproductions of the stamps. In one volume, 622 pages. Size of each page, 10×13 inches. Printed on one side of the paper only, catalogue and illustrations on the left, and spaces to correspond on the right-hand pages. All minor varieties of perforation, watermark, and type are omitted, and only such varieties are included as can be distinguished by the young philatelist. Space has been provided for some 18,000 stamps, and provision made for new issues by the insertion of numerous blank pages. Post-free, 13s. 4d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fortunes in Stamps

FEW people outside the ranks of ardent philatelists have any idea of the enormous growth of the postage-stamp collecting craze during recent years. It is a story full of romance, the financial side of which bristles with figures representing huge fortunes sunk in the tiny scraps of paper which speed the world's correspondence.

Both as a hobby and as a business stamp collecting has reached proportions which give it a very important place among mundane pursuits. There are many private collections worth from £2000 to £200,000, and the capital sunk in the stamp traffic is estimated to be well over £1,000,000.

The financial importance of the trade is illustrated by Stanley Gibbons, Limited, which, by its amalgamation last February with the firm of Glendining, Limited, has a capital of over £1,177,000. It was the auctioneering department of this firm which sold Mr. Smith-Ryland's small private collection a few days ago for about £2500, a price which was considered to be very good for an auction sale, especially as the collection offered contained comparatively few great rarities.

But even here there were one or two prices obtained for particular stamps which at once show the keenness of the collector and the business importance of the traffic. For instance, a Saxony stamp of 1851, with an error of paper, realized £56; a penny red and blue British Central Africa stamp sold for £47; and a penny blue Cape of Good Hope for £38.

Very often far higher prices than these are obtained for single stamps, though it may be a long time before a stamp realizes anything like the £1450 paid by the Prince of Wales last year for a 2d., blue, Mauritius.

The Prince's Speciality

The Prince of Wales is well known to be a very enthusiastic philatelist; but it is not common knowledge that he is a specialist, collecting only the stamps of Great Britain and her Colonies. His stamps are worth many thousands of pounds. As President of the Philatelic Society of London, the Prince is regarded as one of the most cultured followers of the science of stamps, and has cleared up several doubtful points through information gathered in his philatelic researches during his colonial tour.

Two of his sons, Prince Edward and Prince George, have already caught the stamp fascination. Prince Edward is specially interested in the Prince Edward Island stamps, of which he owns a complete set.

Recently a philatelic journal asked its readers their chief reasons for collecting stamps, offering a prize for the best reply. A large majority gave "as an investment" as their first answer, and it is indeed true that postage stamps are not only a safe, but also a highly profitable, investment.

Experts say that British Colonial stamps are the best from the investor's point of view, especially those of Colonies which have small populations, and therefore print comparatively few stamps.

Ten Per Cent

It is stated to be only a moderate estimate that the earning value of stamps is ten per cent. As instances of this earning value may be mentioned the 10s. Lagos, which was sold in 1903 for 12s. 6d., and is now

worth £4, and the £1 Southern Nigeria, whose market price three years ago was 25s., but is now £8.

Mr. W. Hughes Hughes' collection, made during thirty-seven years, at a cost altogether of only £6000 was sold for £3000. Another collection, that of the late Mr. Pauwels, of Torquay, which originally cost £360, was sold, after lying on one side for twenty-seven years, for £4000.

No collection of valuables occupies such a little space as postage stamps. The small strong-room of one representative firm's headquarters contains more than £75,000 worth of stamps pasted into stock books and numbered. Some of these stock books, of which there are 180, are worth over £2000. The Newfoundland stamps alone in this apartment are valued at £1569 14s. 6d.

There are 40,000 names of customers in all parts of the world on the books of the firm, the Prince of Wales, with a standing order for all new Colonial issues, being among the most important. For these customers about 12,000 catalogues of British and 10,000 of foreign stamps are prepared annually. The stamps sold in a year run into millions, and the album to at least 30,000.

Rare Stamps

Rare stamps, such as some of the Sandwich Island, Mauritius, and Australian issues, valued at about £50 each, are constantly coming into the market, and are never kept for more than a week.

As collectors are increasing annually, especially in the public schools, and prices and takings are always rising, the traffic generally must be considered to be in a very flourishing condition.

But one does not wonder at this when it is stated that many wealthy collectors spend from £1000 to £10,000 a year on their hobby, and that one—M. Philippe la Rénottière, of Paris, the greatest collector in the world—has spent £200,000 since 1870. His stamps are worth nearly £300,000, and his annual expenditure with one firm alone averages from £300 to £400. He employs two secretaries, one to look after his stamps, and the other the post cards, envelopes, and wrappers.

Mr. H. J. Duveen, of New York, has a collection valued at £80,000; Mr. W. B. Avery, of Birmingham, owns stamps worth £50,000; Mr. M. P. Castle, Vice-President of the Philatelic Society, sold his stamps five years ago for £30,000; and several American collectors have stamps worth from £30,000 to £50,000.

In Russia the most important collector is Mr. F. Breitfuss, of St. Petersburg, who has been collecting for forty-five years, and is said to possess the third finest collection in the world. Italy's most famous collector is Prince Doria Pamphili, and philately place of honour in Germany is occupied by Her Martin Schroeder, the Leipzig merchant.

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres is an example of a collector who, once smitten with the fascination of stamps, has pursued the hobby with such keenness that in a very few years he has become possessed of one of the most magnificent collections of its kind in the world. He started collecting comparatively recently, specializing on the stamps of the British Empire, the United States, and the Italian States, and his remarkable collection is all the more interesting from the fact that it is based on historical lines.

The Daily Express.

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XXI (continued)

Wherein it appears that the well of truth ought to be full of wine!

WHEN the wave emerged in the Villa Nazionale a number of carriages, driving there at the fashionable hour, were compelled hastily to draw on one side, to the great fear of the ladies within, who thought it a rising of the populace.

The overwhelmed police officers tried in vain to stem the torrent and approach the carriage where John was continuing his sensational cries. It took more than a quarter of an hour for the ridiculous procession to reach the hotel, with a large reinforcement of noisy shouts. The trams from Pausilippe were interrupted; two trains from Pouzzoles, lying to at Torretta, waited for the road to become passable; landaus, victorias, fiacres, entangled in inextricable confusion, in vain sought an opportunity of finding their way out. People climbed the carob trees, palms, and lamp-posts and any other posts of observation they could find. And the one word, clamoured by thousands of voices, echoed to the outermost ranks of the crowd, who repeated it confidently, "Albrandi! Albrandi!"

Just as the fiacre, not without difficulty, drew near the hotel, the landau containing William and Betty also arrived there.

"Why, whatever is the matter? A riot?" cried William, jumping out.

Then, for the first time, he distinguished the name "Albrandi" among the shouts and caught sight of John, still standing in his carriage, whence he refused to descend, and repeating obstinately—

"Albrandi has got it! Albrandi!"

"Wretch!" he exclaimed, without any clear idea of what had happened. And, throwing himself on his valet, he caught him by the throat, nearly threw him to the ground, and forced him, with great strides, to enter the hotel, to the great amusement of the waiters, who had rushed up to see what was the matter. Betty also approached the fiacre, from which Victoria, more dead than alive with fear and shame, had no strength to move.

"What does this mean?" she asked. "Who is this Albrandi, and what has he got?"

"The stamp, Miss Betty."

She could say no more, for her voice died away and she fell full length on the flag-stones. Two of the servants took her up in a dead faint and carried her into the hotel, where Betty followed them.

But a crowd having the effect of drawing together a still greater crowd, the mass which encumbered the streets became alarming. All communication was cut off, carriages stopped, pedestrians trodden under foot, flower borders and grass plots invaded. From all sides rushed up reporters in quest of news, stopping each other to ask what it all meant. But no one, as we can well understand, could explain the matter exactly.

So in all the groups there were endless, hot discussions, the noise of which resounded throughout the neighbouring streets. The crowd chattered and jabbered without in the least knowing what about. They were agreed on one point only—that something extraordinary had happened "at Prince Albrandi's palace."

At last the police were compelled to call in the military. And, while the disorder was at its height, trumpets began to sound at the other end of the town. Nothing more was needed to dissolve the enormous crowd, who melted, like a cloud of dust, into the adjacent streets, and soon left the place clear.

But as the soldiers passed under the window of the Grand Hotel, along the street, cleared as if by magic, a window on the third floor was opened, and the disordered head of John suddenly emerged and launched for the last time into the calm evening air the four magic words, "Albrandi has got it! All Brandy! Ha! ha! ha!"

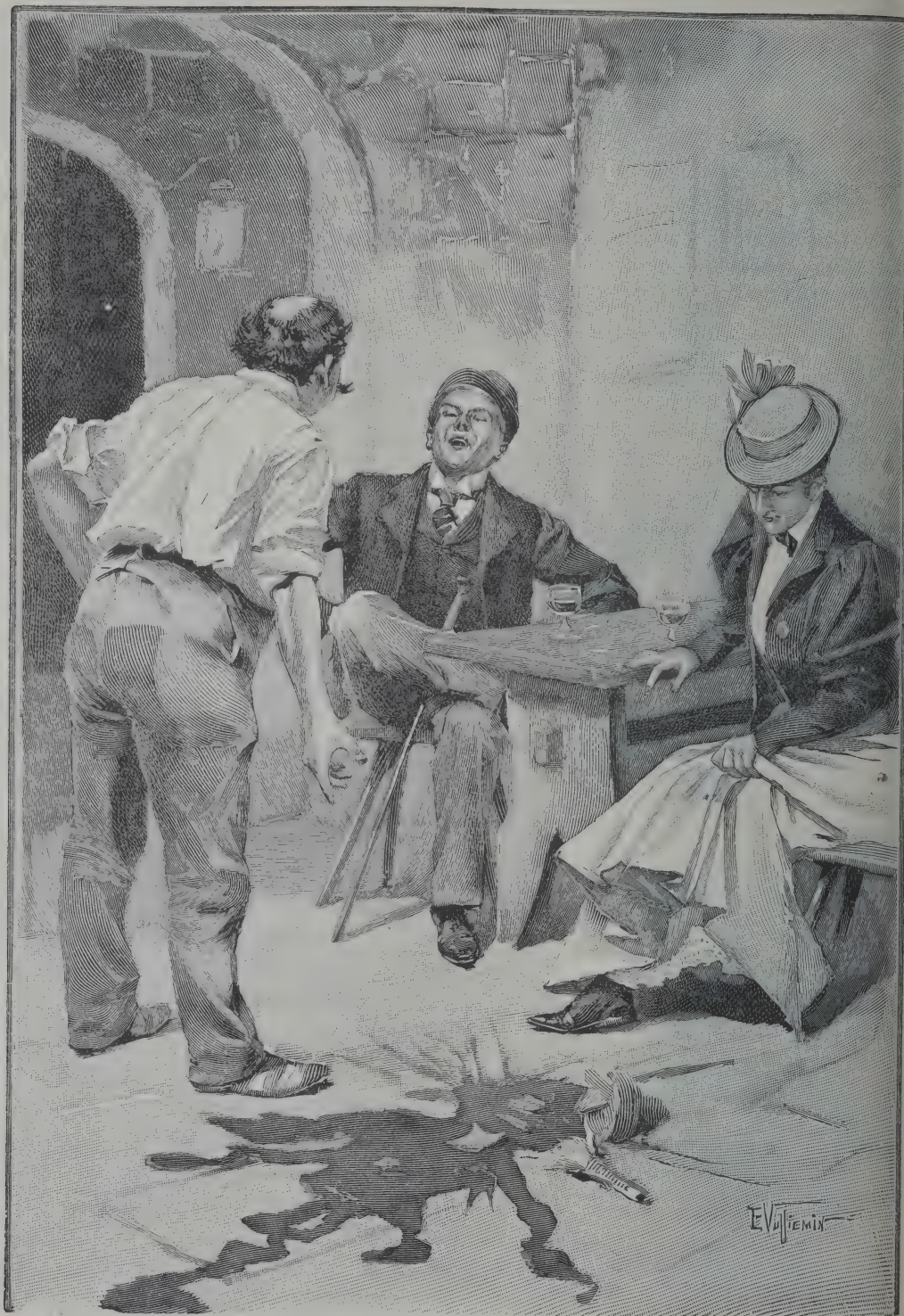


CHAPTER XXII

Wherein it is shown how William and Betty, having reached their object, despair of ever attaining it.

WHEN William and Betty met in the dining-room of the Grand Hotel they were in very different moods. The young girl was scarcely able to hide, under an amiable smile, the joy she felt in the unexpected discovery of the precious secret. William was wondering whether John had really told all, or whether the name of Albrandi had simply escaped him in a moment of exuberance without any comment. But neither of them allowed these thoughts to escape them as they exchanged their impressions of Naples during dinner. But, in speaking of their drive in the afternoon, no mention was made of the sumptuous dwelling of the Prince or of the disturbance in the Villa Nazionale; and their silence on these subjects was the more remarkable as they were the two special events of the day.

William's uneasiness increased, for he concluded, logically enough, that, as Betty asked nothing about it, it was evident she was already enlightened. But Miss Scott remained impenetrable, and the unfortunate William rose from the table no better informed than when he sat down. The one important thing for him now was to execute once more, with Prince Albrandi, the manœuvre which had succeeded so well with M. Moulineau—that is, to see him alone and before Miss Betty. And, as the little American must at least have dangerous suspicions touching this name of Albrandi, shouted in her ears a hundred times, it was necessary to act without any delay.



THE HOST JABBERED A NUMBER OF INVECTIVES

So William, feeling all the more disquieted because John was still in no condition to answer questions or give him any exact information on the state of affairs, resolved to go at once to the Prince's house. He profited by the confusion arising, when the guests were leaving the table, to glide into the crowd and gain the vestibule and the outer door. But Betty had not lost sight of him, and was close behind him as he descended the first step.

"You are going out?" she asked.

(To be continued.)

"Oh, are you there?" said the young man, turning round with a disappointed expression.

"Yes, I ran after you. You sneak off just like a common commander."

William felt highly displeased, and scarcely took the trouble to hide it.

"Yes," continued Betty, "I know I am a great nuisance, but I warned you. I can't possibly let you go out alone, especially without any money. Just think, if anything happened to you—"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Constantinople Letter

CONSTANTINOPLE, 8 September, 1905

The New Turkish Stamps

In my letter of this day I give you some news as to the new stamps of Turkey and of the foreign post offices in the Levant.

The new stamps of Turkey appeared on 1 September, the anniversary of the accession to the throne of H.M. the Sultan; this new set consists of eighteen stamps:—

Postage stamps: 5, 10, 20 paras, 1, 2, 2½, 5, 10, 25, and 50 piastres.

Newspaper stamps: 5, 10, 20 paras, 1, 2, and 5 piastres.

Unpaid Letter stamps: 1 and 2 piastres.

It will be seen that this time there are two new values, 2½ and 10 piastres, which were not included in the former issues and which have been created specially for the packets sent by parcel post, as these values were being needed continually in that branch; as to the Unpaid Letter stamps, the 10 and 20 paras have been withdrawn in this issue, but they are needed, as it seems, and they will be also created soon.

The 1901 Series, perf. 12½

An interesting thing happened during the last ten days of August. As the result of a formal order issued by the Turkish Government, the new stamps could not be issued before 1 September, the date of the anniversary referred to. As some of the values of the old stamps were lacking, one was obliged to get printed a certain number of the old types; but as the perforating machine used in the old types had been put out of use as the result of being used so much, the stamps were perforated by the machine used in making the new issue of stamps, and the same perforation was used, that is, 12½ instead of 13½. Only 100 sheets were printed (100 stamps) of the 5 paras, violet, but in a very dark violet, in all 10,000 stamps; 50 sheets of the 20 paras, red instead of the pink, in all 5000 pieces; and 25 sheets of the 5 piastres, violet-pink, printed in a bright red-violet, in all 2500 pieces. These stamps were used only about ten days by the Post Office of Stamboul alone, and I think they will be in very great demand, especially unused, as nobody had time to lay in a stock of them, and they are no longer in circulation in Turkey.

The New British Levant Stamps

The British Post Offices in the Levant have issued also new stamps by surcharging the word "Levant" on all the stamps of the mother country, that is, ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and up to the 1s.; thus at this moment one can use indifferently on letters posted at these offices either the old stamps surcharged in "piastres" and "paras," or the new issue of stamps

surcharged "Levant." The stamps of 2½d. and 5d. were surcharged already respectively "40 paras" and "80 paras." When this stock is exhausted they will be used again, but they will bear the surcharges of "1 piastre" and "2 piastres" instead of the former surcharges.

The Demand for Higher Values

On the other hand, as the highest value used in the British post offices was the 2s. 6d. surcharged "12 piastres," and as often the leading banks and offices in sending away title deeds, share scrip, etc., were obliged to pay from £4 to £5 for the postage of such a letter, it resulted in the Post Office being compelled to cover the whole envelope with the 2s. 6d. stamps, and this was inconvenient both to the sender and to the Post Office. Upon a request being made to the Postmaster-General in London, it was decided to surcharge also the 5s., pink, with the surcharge "24 piastres," for use in the British offices in the Levant. Hence the reason for the rearrangement now of the list of postage stamps in use at the British offices, a list which I gave in my last letter:—

Stamps surcharged "Levant": ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 1s.

Stamps surcharged in paras and piastres without the word "Levant": 40 paras on 2½d., 80 paras on 5d., 4 piastres on 10d., 12 piastres on 2s. 6d., and 24 piastres on 5s.

First Supply of British "Levant" Stamps Sold Out

This new issue surcharged "Levant" was such a success that at the end of three weeks the first supply of several hundred pounds' worth received by our post office was completely exhausted, and another large supply had to be ordered by telegram as the result of the orders which came in.

German Levant Stamps

Although the German stamps with "Reichspost" have been superseded for more than two years in Germany, and replaced by stamps bearing the inscription "Deutsches Reich," the "Reichspost" stamps continue to be used in the German offices in the Levant surcharged in paras and piastres. Recently the postal authorities published a notice to say that towards the end of this month fresh stamps will be used which will bear the same surcharges, but on the stamps of the type "Deutsches Reich" instead of "Reichspost." The stamps of the old type will be exchanged for the new ones at all the German post offices in the Levant until 1 January, 1906.

Russian Levant Stamps

A new value will be issued soon in these offices, namely, that of "5 paras" on the 1 kopeck, orange.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.

Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

Programme of the Season 1905-6.

- 1905 The Earl of Crawford, K.T. (*Vice-President*).
 Oct. 13. A Display. This meeting will be held at the residence of the Earl of Crawford, 2, Cavendish Square.
 Oct. 27. Mr. F. Reichenheim. Papers, with Displays. (1) The F. M. Stamps of France. (2) The Newspaper Stamps of France.
 Nov. 10. Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg. A Paper entitled "Philatelic Researches in Australia," illustrated with impressions from dies and plates, and pulls from perforating and rouletting machines.
 Nov. 24. Mr. B. D. Knox. A Paper entitled "The Malta Local Post and its Stamps," with Display.
 Dec. 8. Messrs. M. P. Castle and L. L. R. Hausburg. A Paper on the Retouches of New Zealand, with Display and Lantern Enlargements.
 1906
 Jan. 5. Mr. R. Frentzel. A Display of a portion of Collection of the Stamps of Mexico, with Notes.
 Jan. 19. Mr. H. R. Oldfield. A Paper on the Stamps of Servia, with Display.
 Feb. 2. Mr. R. B. Yardley. A Display of the Stamps of Griqualand, with Notes.
 Feb. 16. Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg. A Paper on the Perforations of Victoria, with Display.
 Mar. 2. Mr. H. J. Duveen. A Display of the Stamps of Switzerland.
 Mar. 16. Mr. T. W. Hall. A Paper on the Stamps of Uruguay, with Display.
 Mar. 30. Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall. Notes on used British Stamps, with a Sketch History of Postmarks from the Earliest Times.
 April 20. Mr. A. Bagshawe. A Paper on the Stamps of the Straits Settlements, with Display.
 May 4. Baron P. de Worms. A Paper on the Stamps of Ceylon, with Display of portion of the Collection of Baron A. de Worms.
 May 18. Mr. L. W. Fulcher. A Paper entitled "Studies in Plating the Stamps of Japan," with Display. (1) The First Issue.
 June 8. Annual General Meeting.

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.

Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

Programme. Season 1905-6.

- 1905 General Business: Election of New Members, etc. etc. Paper and Display: "The Pictorial Stamps of New Zealand." W. B. Edwards, B.Sc. General Sale and Exchange.
 Nov. 15. General Display by Members. British Colonial King's Heads. Display with Notes: Barbados. E. Heginbottom, B.A., with Display of the Society's Collection of Forgeries, Reprints, and Bogus Issues, with Notes by the Hon. Counterfeit Detector. General Sale and Exchange.
 Dec. 20. Display: Rare Stamps. F. W. Lake. Ten-minute Papers: Selected. General Sale and Exchange.

- 1906
 Jan. 17. Display with Notes: Antigua, Bahama, Bermuda, Cayman Is., Dominica. J. Heginbottom, B.A. Paper: "Recollections," accompanied by Display. H. W. Westcott. General Sale and Exchange.
 Feb. 21. Auction for disposal of Members' Duplicates, etc. Discussion: "Is Finality Desideratum?" Opened by A. H. Harris. General Display by Members: The Far East. General Sale and Exchange.
 Mar. 21. Display with Notes: Grenada, Jamaica. E. Heginbottom, B.A. Ten-minute Papers: Selected. Display: A Selection of British Colonies. F. W. Lake. General Sale and Exchange.
 April 18. Display with Notes: Leeward Is., Monserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts. E. Heginbottom, B.A. Paper: "Fiscal Notes and Indications," accompanied by Display of the United States and Philippines. W. Schwabacher. General Sale and Exchange.
 May 16. Annual General Meeting.

NOTE.—The exchange will be opened at each meeting by the Chairman, on the conclusion of the item preceding.

Tea will be provided in the hotel for the convenience of country and other Members in town for the meetings.

Manchester Philatelic Society

President: W. Dornier Beckton.

Hon. Sec.: G. Fred. H. Gibson, Fairfield, Crumpsall, Manchester.

Meetings: Grand Hotel, Manchester. Weekly: Fridays at 7 p.m.

The Library

The books belonging to the Society are kept in a bookcase at the Grand Hotel, and may be borrowed on application to the Librarian.

All books must be in the library during the ordinary meetings of the Society. Members may borrow one book at a time, with the privilege of renewal at the end of a fortnight, unless it is required by another member.

G. L. CAMPBELL, jun., *Hon. Librarian*,
 37, Duke Street, Southport.

The Exchange Club

Is in active operation from October to June inclusive and is open to members and corresponding members for the session, the packets of sheets circulating monthly. Details and rules may be had on application to

J. S. GEE, *Comptroller*,
 96, Mosley Street, Manchester.

Syllabus—Session 1905-6

- 1905
 Sept. 29. Opening Meeting and Exhibition.
 Oct. 6. Elementary Discussion, "Antigua." Opened by J. H. Taylor.
 Oct. 13. Display with Notes, Tonga. J. H. Abbott.
 Oct. 20. Elementary Discussion, "Barbados." Opened by G. L. Campbell, jun.
 Oct. 27. Paper, "Chili from 1867." R. Albrecht.
 Nov. 3. Elementary Discussion, "Bahamas and Bermuda." Opened by J. H. Abbott.
 Nov. 10. Display with Notes, U.S.A. W. W. Munna.
 Nov. 17. Elementary Discussion, "Dominica and Jamaica." Opened by J. S. Gee.
 Nov. 24. Display with Notes, Orange Free State. W. D. Beckton.
 Dec. 1. Elementary Discussion, "Grenada." Opened by R. F. Chance.

- Dec. 8. Paper, "Russia." G. B. Duerst.
 Dec. 15. Elementary Discussion, "Montserrat and S. Christopher." Opened by J. H. Abbott.
- Jan. 12. Exhibition of Errors (limited to twelve by each member).
 Jan. 19. Elementary Discussion, "Nevis." Opened by C. H. Coote.
 Jan. 26. Display with Notes, Wurtemberg. J. C. North.
 Feb. 2. Lecture by F. J. Melville, Athenæum, 6.30 p.m.
 Feb. 7 (Wednesday). Dinner, 6.30 p.m.
 Feb. 16. Elementary Discussion, "S. Lucia and Tobago." Opened by F. J. Beazley.
 Feb. 23. Paper, "The Outsider's View of Philately." J. H. Abbott.
 Mar. 2. Elementary Discussion, "S. Vincent." Opened by W. W. Munn.
 Mar. 9. Display with Notes, English Officials. I. J. Bernstein.
 Mar. 16. Elementary Discussion, "Trinidad." Opened by G. F. H. Gibson.
 Mar. 23. Paper, "Sicily." W. D. Beckton.
 Mar. 30. Elementary Discussion, "Turks Islands and Virgin Islands." Opened by W. W. Munn.
 Aug. 6. Display with Notes, Holland. R. F. Chance.
- Members are particularly requested to bring to the meetings their stamps of the countries under discussion.

Johannesburg Philatelic Society

Secretary: J. Glasson, P.O. Box 4967, Johannesburg.

Meetings: Masonic Temple, Plein Street, Johannesburg.

A VERY interesting meeting of the Johannesburg Philatelic Society took place on Tuesday, 29 August, 1905, Mr. C. R. Schuler in the chair. Amongst the new stamps shown were several of the new British South Africa Company, on which a fine view of the Victoria Falls is depicted. These were exhibited by Mr. M. Neuburger. Mr. C. R. Schuler showed a very fine specimen of the 12 pence, black, Canada, used. This is a very fine stamp, and probably a second copy is not to be found in Africa. The Auditor then presented the balance-sheet. The exhibition for the evening was British North America. The fine collection shown by Mr. A. J. Cohen out-classed all other exhibits. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to this gentleman. Mr. G. C. Herbert has kindly consented to exhibit his fine collection of African stamps. This gentleman will show his Transvaal and British East African stamps, and a fortnight later Orange Free State or Orange River Colony and Natal stamps. As is well known, this collection is one of the finest in South Africa. The Society extend a cordial welcome to ladies and gentlemen interested in Philately. Their meetings are held at the Masonic Temple, Plein Street.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

A Notable Collection Sold

OUR old and genial friend and most excellent philatelist, Mr. J. N. Luff, a citizen of the Great Republic, was over here in our village for a few weeks recently, and whilst here he fell into the temptation to part with his magnificent collection of the stamps of the United States. Its extent may be gathered from the fact that it prices up to between £5000 and £6000.

Stanley Gibbons, Limited, were the fortunate purchasers, and they say that it is the finest collection of United States stamps ever broken up in this country.

It has been the work of eighteen years of one of the keenest philatelists and most painstaking philatelic writers of which our little world can boast.

More Australian Federation

THE colonies of Australia have "federated," and now the stamp firms of the Commonwealth are following suit.

The firms of P. Hagen and Messrs. J. H. Smyth and Co. have amalgamated under the title of Fred. Hagen, Ltd. Both firms are located in Sydney. Hagen runs the good old *Australian Philatelist*, and Smyth the young and vigorous *Australian Journal of Philately*. The younger journal will cease to exist from the completion of Volume V, and Mr. J. H. Smyth will become editor of *The Australian Philatelist*, which will probably be considerably enlarged.

Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have transferred the sole agency for Australia to the new firm.

Nigerias Still Rising

THE latest news is the continued rise of Nigerias. It is only a few weeks since that I secured a copy of the then current £1 King's Head, single CA, of Southern Nigeria at new issue rate, but already it has risen into the clouds of scarce and high-priced stamps.

The supply ran short rapidly and somewhat suddenly, and collectors were hunting hither and thither for copies, but none were to be had for love or money. One collector astonished a Strand dealer by offering £6 for a copy, and now £8 is said to be the lowest price.

Charging for Auction Catalogues

ON page 224 of *G.S.W.* I commented on a printed circular which I had received from Messrs. Puttick and Simpson, intimating that in future their Stamp Catalogues would be supplied to me, if required, at 2s. per season.

I now gladly publish the following explanation that the circular was not intended to apply to well-known collector buyers:—

"We notice in the last issue of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, under notes by 'An Odd Lot,' some adverse comments upon our supposedly new system of charging 2s. per season for our stamp catalogues. This is by no means new, as we have for many years pursued this course.

"We send catalogues free to all known buyers and interested persons, but we have so many applications for catalogues which are only required for mere curiosity, that our printing and postage bill would be more than double what it is if we were to send them to every one free, and therefore to persons whose names we do not know we send out the notice in question annually.

"We do not know who 'An Odd Lot' is, but if you will kindly give us his name and address we will see that he always has our catalogues as they are published."

It only remains for me to add that I am only "An Odd Lot," and that I will take my chance of getting a free copy, as heretofore, without unveiling my modest identity. As a most courteous and obliging firm, I would also wish them a bumper philatelic season in their beautiful auction rooms in Leicester Square.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

A. M. S. (Chiswick).—The Saxony stamp which sold for £56 at Glendining's sale on the 18th September, 1905, was the 1851: error of paper, $\frac{1}{2}$ ngr. on pale blue paper, instead of grey paper.

H. C. (Luton).—We are afraid we must agree with Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., that they act wisely in treating their Catalogue as their own special price list of stamps they have for sale; and after all, what would be the practical value of their filling up the blanks by inserting prices for stamps they have not in stock? The price of any article that a trader sells must eventually be determined by the price he has to pay for his supply. As a case in point, take the Southern Nigeria, King's Head, single CA, £1. It is left unpriced in the Catalogue, and when the Catalogue was published supplies were expected at the usual commission over face. Therefore, on your plan, they should have priced it at about 25s. Supplies have been unobtainable, and the stamp now fetches £8. What would have been the practical use of "a fully priced catalogue" pricing a stamp not in stock in this case? And it is only typical. As a matter of fact, it is simply bunkum for any stamp dealer to publish a catalogue of prices for stamps he cannot supply, and no one knows this better than those who attempt it. From a collector's point of view, we tried your plan once, and—came a cropper.

P. N. C. (Oxford).—Of your list, Gambia, Seychelles, and British Somaliland will be the best for your purpose. If you wish to regard the money you put into stamps as an investment, collect unused only; if

investment is of no consequence, give play to your own preference. But of your countries unused are just as cheap as used; therefore take unused. Don't trouble about minor varieties until you have had a few years of experience, and don't take anything outside the ordinary postage stamps sold for ordinary public use, thus barring officials, unpaid and also fiscals used for postage, registereds, express delivery, etc. Victoria Falls stamps are not worth your attention.

E. H. L. (Halifax).—We use only cuttings from other journals on our miscellaneous page. No, we do not advise the general collector to bother about chaff surfaced paper.

F. E. H. (Dublin).—Yes, we expect Gibbons will publish a simplified catalogue later on.

A. R.—If by "the British $\frac{1}{2}$ d. King's Head, blue green," you mean the Great Britain King's Head $\frac{1}{2}$ d., you will find it catalogued at 1d., and we know of no reason why it should be priced higher. It is common and likely to be so for many years.

H. E. H. (London).—If you cannot attend the meetings, we do not see what you are to gain from membership, except the say-so of being a member.

D. A. (Dundee).—It would be very risky for you to do any buying of remainder lots at auctions unless you have some trustworthy friend in London who will inspect the stamps and advise you as to their condition, etc.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

OCTOBER, 1905

- 16. Auction: Douglas Cook and Co., 562, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. 6.30 p.m.
- 17 & 18. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
- 18. Enterprise Philatelic Society: General Business. Election of New Members. Paper and Display—The Pictorial Stamps of New Zealand, by W. B. Edwards, B.Sc.
- 19 & 20. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
- 20. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion, Barbados, opened by G. L. Campbell, jun.
- 21. Philatelic Society of London: Papers with Displays—1, The FM Stamps of France; 2, The Newspaper Stamps of France, by F. Reichenheim.
- The Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; 6 p.m. Paper—Posts in Nelson's Time, Fred. J. Melville; 8 p.m. Paper

- The Electric and International: A Talk about British Telegraphic Companies and Stamps, R. Halliday; 8.20 p.m. Display—African Colonies I, Cape Colony; 8.30 p.m. Debate—Should great commemorations be signalized by the Issue of Special Stamps? 9.20 p.m.
- 23. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: President's Address. Paper—Recent Developments in Postal Issues, at Carnanton, Tunbridge Wells. 3 p.m.
- 24 & 25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
- 26 & 27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, London. 5 p.m.
- 27. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—Chili from 1897, R. Albrecht.
- 31. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 17
hole No. 42

21 OCTOBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

by EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Bergedorf

THIS insignificant German town, with a population of only 10,000 inhabitants, for a short period, once, issued a series of postage stamps, and therefore claims a permanent place in our postage stamp albums.

It is described as a district and town of Germany 10 miles south-east of Hamburg, to which it belongs. The area of the district is 35 square miles, and the population is given as 25,000. It is this extension of the name to a district that gives the stamps from being relegated to the catalogue of local stamps confined to the town of issue.

The place acquired considerable notoriety some centuries ago as the head-quarters of powerful gangs of robbers, who for many years gave great trouble to the adjoining states.

Encyclopædias and gazetteers dismiss the place in a few lines, but an exceedingly interesting history of it is to be found in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* of 1863, which I quote *in extenso* :—

In 1387, Margaret, the Semiramis of the north, wearing already the crowns of Denmark and Norway, received that of Sweden. Albert, the deposed and prisoned king, was recognized only by the island of Gottland and the city of Holmia, the then capital. John of Macklenburg, his father-in-law, was besieged at that city; and the magistrates of Rostock and Wismar issued an edict, allowing all pirates and predatory brigands, who should attack and capture by sea or land convoy appertaining to the queen's

party, free access to their ports, and ready means for disposal of plunder. The numerous predatory bands of that lawless period, glad of any excuse for exercising their profession, plundered the villages, and, under the pretext of revictualling Holmia, called themselves *Vitaliens*, or victuallers.

After this war ceased, the Vitaliens, satisfied with their lucrative calling, were by no means inclined to resign it; and the people of Rostock and Wismar, who had made peace with the queen, finding it impossible to lay the fiend they had raised, united with Hamburg and other Hanseatic towns in occasional crusades against their former allies. This desultory hostility continued some years; and, in 1410, Hamburg, Lubeck, and Bremen obtained an undertaking from the counts of Oldenburg, who doubtless had private reasons satisfactory to themselves—in the shape of tribute money for their patronage—to withdraw the protection hitherto afforded the Vitaliens. These latter were by no means disposed to succumb, and allied themselves with other brigands, then known under the designation of *chaenapans* and *filibustiers* (whence the modern American filibusters).

As the cave of Adullam, ages before, afforded refuge to every one that was distressed or in debt or discontented, so among other strongholds of the period under notice did the castle of Bergedorf, which now makes its appearance on the scene. This was peculiarly adapted to the romantic purposes of a robber's den; possessing a subterranean passage leading from its vaults, with an outlet at a considerable distance in the forest. Thence the marauders issuing, seized upon and plundered travelling merchants and others; and if not satisfied with the booty obtained from their persons, blindfolded and bore them off to the dungeons of Bergedorf, till they could procure ransom from their friends. They were supposed to be privately protected by Duke Henry of Saxony—under whose jurisdiction their retreat then was—for reasons, most probably pretty *weighty*, best known to himself; as he never exerted his influence to quell the nuisance, notwithstanding repeated petitions were addressed to him by the authorities of the surrounding cities.

At length the burgomasters of Hamburg and Lubeck,

with two thousand foot and eight hundred horse and a crowd of volunteer citizens, made a regular attack on the town of Bergedorf; which, yielding after a brief resistance, was pillaged and burnt. The brigands, however, retreated to the castle, which was strong enough to withstand for some days the arquebuses and cannons of that time. On the fifth day the besiegers collected and fired a quantity of combustibles; the stifling smoke of which compelling the defenders to retire from the walls and windows, they made an escalade, and the garrison surrendered, on condition of being allowed to depart with whole skins.

In 1430 it was agreed that the Duke of Saxony should abandon for ever, to the towns of Lubeck and Hamburg, the castle of Bergedorf, with its *appanages*; and for more than four hundred years has it remained under the joint protection of those cities, each claiming the alternate nomination of a bailiff, or governor of senatorial rank—at first appointed for four, afterwards for six years—and supplying an equal number of soldiers to garrison the castle.

Its Philatelic History

Its philatelic history is a brief one. According to Mr. Westoby, an intelligent postmaster of Bergedorf in 1861 induced its inhabitants, and those of the adjoining parish of Gersthacht, with the adjoining hamlets, to introduce a series of postage stamps.

The currency was the same as that of Hamburg and Lubeck, being schillinge and Hamburg marks, and the design of the stamps was made up of half of the Arms of Lubeck (an Eagle) on the left, and half of those of Hamburg (portion of a Castle) on the right.

The stamps were issued in November, 1861, and were superseded on 31 December, 1867, by the stamps of Hamburg, that city having acquired complete jurisdiction over the town and district of Bergedorf.

The number of stamps printed in 1861 is given by Westoby as follows:—

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., | 200,000 |
| 1 sch., | 90,000 |
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch., | 100,000 |
| 3 sch., | 80,000 |
| 4 sch., | 80,000 |
| Total | 550,000 |

Of these he says 324 were used between 1861 and the end of 1867, and the remainders, composed of the following, were purchased by M. Moens, the well-known stamp dealer of Brussels, in 1868:—

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., | 39,000 |
| 1 sch., | 26,000 |
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch., | 68,000 |
| 3 sch., | 43,000 |
| 4 sch., | 50,000 |

M. Moens also purchased the lithographic stone with the original engravings of the stamps upon it, and an obliterating stamp of five horizontal bars. Among the stamps purchased, we are told, there were about fifty of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ sch., with the final "E" of SCHILLINGE either separate or in a pair with another stamp without the final "E."

1861. Five values. Design, a combination of the Eagle of the Lubeck Arms and towers of the Castle of the Arms of Hamburg, within a circle. In the corners formed by the circle are the initials L.H.P.A., i.e. "Lubeck Hamburg Post Amt." In the framework on top was the word BERGEDORF, at the foot the word POSTMARKE, and at the sides the value in words. In each corner was the number of value. The stamps were produced by the lithographic process.

The stamps were all of different size, the smallest size being that of the lower value, $\frac{1}{2}$ sch.; each higher value being slightly increased size, thus following the style of coins.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ sch. is catalogued on lilac paper as well as on blue paper, and the 3 sch. black on rose paper as well as in blue rose paper, but it is doubtful whether they were ever issued.

The stamps were issued imperforate.



| | Imperforate. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ sch., black on blue paper | . | 1 6 | 20 0 |
| 1 " " white paper | . | 3 0 | 30 0 |
| $1\frac{1}{2}$ " " yellow paper | . | 0 4 | — |
| 3 " blue on rose paper | . | 0 4 | 75 0 |
| 4 " black on brown paper | . | 0 4 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

PERFORATIONS

THEIR METHOD AND USE

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

THE aim of this magazine is to help young collectors by publishing series articles on all matters that may be of interest to them. At the outset, however, the Editor made it plain that all subjects which were mainly adapted to the needs of advanced collectors should be rigorously excluded, as being outside the pale of the average beginner's case. For this reason, all postage stamps are dealt with under the headings of "Perforated" and "Imperforated," and varieties of perforations are ignored. Now, although it is a matter of experience that most beginners do not care to go into such questions as varieties in perforation and shade of colour, yet I think it not only possible but probable that many beginners would be glad to know something about this unknown land. Beginners do not intend to remain beginners any more than the common garden caterpillar intends to remain in chrysalis state. The wings will come one day, and with them will come the desire to fly to higher regions, and then a little knowledge of perforations may prove extremely useful. Therefore, with the Editor's kind permission, I purpose to give some account of the origin of the method of perforating stamps, and proceed to describe in very simple language the various kinds of perforation that are met with in the world of stamps. Let us begin with a little history. All postage stamps, previous to the year 1854, were unperforated, i.e. there were no little holes or slits between the stamps to allow of their being easily separated from each other. Those who bought sheets of stamps had to cut them apart by means of a knife or a pair of scissors; while a stock of single stamps, cut ready for use, was kept at the post offices for people who bought one or a few stamps at a time. Obviously, this method of separating stamps was found very inconvenient; and, as necessity has it, occurred to an Irishman, Mr. Henry Archer by name, that a machine might

be made to do mechanically that which hitherto had to be done by hand. The interesting account of his experiments in rouletting, i.e. cutting small slits between the stamps by means of a kind of cog-wheel furnished with small cutters, has already been told in the pages of this magazine by the late Mr. Gordon Smith. Suffice it for me to say that it was not until the year 1854—fourteen years after the issue of the *Id.*, black—that the first sheet of stamps—*Id.*, red-brown, wmk. Small Crown—appeared with small holes cut in the borders of the designs, so that the sheets might remain entire for convenience of storage and issue, and yet allow the stamps to be easily separated when required for use.

The many methods employed in thus piercing or cutting the borders of the designs, so as to allow of their being easily separated, fall under two general headings:—

1. Those which remove no portion of the paper.
2. Those which cut out small disks of paper.

1. The system in which no part of the paper is removed has been termed "rouletting" (French *roulette* = a wheel), even when the cutting has not been done by a wheel.

Under this heading come stamps that are pin-perforated and cut in various geometrical lines.

Pin-perforations are small holes pricked by sharp points close together and projecting from a wheel. A very good idea of this method may be obtained by passing a sheet of paper under the unthreaded needle of a sewing-machine at work. Several of the methods, which remove no part of the paper, but only cut slits or geometrical lines, have no English term by which they can adequately be described. Accordingly, the words used by French collectors have been adopted; and the reader may find a short explanation useful from an instructive if not a practical point of view.

Percés en Arc

All the 1864 and 1865 issues of Brunswick are of this kind. The term implies that the cuts, by means of which the stamps are separated, take the form of a series of small curves. In the border common to two stamps the edge of one will have a number of small convex arcs near together, while the corresponding edge of the other stamp will show concave arcs, giving that stamp an appearance of a machine perforation.

Percés en Scie

A saw-like appearance in the edge of a stamp, caused by a series of zigzag cuts, is known as "percés en scie." Of such are the 1861 issue of Bremen.

Serpentine and Half-square Roulettes

In the 1860 issue of Finland we find that the edge of the stamp assumes the shape of a short and deep wave, in which convex and concave curves alternate. This is known as "serpentine roulette."

A roulette in half-squares occurs in the 1863 issue of Denmark. It has the appearance of a number of rectangular teeth projecting from the edge of the stamp.

These form the principal varieties of rouletting. The ordinary roulette is merely a series of straight cuts. When the teeth used for making these cuts are inked by the printer's roller, the cuts appear coloured, and the stamps are described as "rouletted in colour." Of such are the Thurn and Taxis issue of 1867 and the 1865 issue of Luxemburg.

2. In the second class comes the system of perforations now in general use throughout the world, viz. that of cutting out rows of small disks of paper in the border surrounding the stamp. The many varieties of this kind of perforation are distinguished by the number of holes which are cut in a length of two centimetres. In the first perforated English stamps of 1854 there were sixteen holes in this space. Hence the stamps are said to be "perforated 16." A "14 perforation" was adopted later in that year, and these two methods of perforation were used in alternate issues until 1858, when "14" became the standard perforation for future issues, with the exception of the 5s., 10s., and £1 stamps of the 1867-83 issue.

The largest perforation known is that of the 1853-60 issue of France. This perforation has been styled "La Suisse." It was an unofficial perforation adopted by the firm of Susse Frères, for their own and their customers' use, and is catalogued as "perf. 7."

The smallest perforation on record is also an unofficial production. It is a perforation of about 19, and is found in the issues of Tasmania 1864-70.

Stamps are sometimes perforated with more holes along the top than along the sides, and vice versa. Take, by way of example, an issue of stamps catalogued as "perf. 14 x 12½." This means that the perforation along the top and bottom of the stamp is 14, whereas the side perforation is 12½. This is known as compound perforation.

With the various machines used in the perforation of stamps we have no concern here. The task which I set before me was to give the reader as correct an impression as I could of the results arrived at by the different methods employed in perforating stamps. This object being attained, the reader will be able to appreciate what I have to say on the measures adopted by the stamp collector whereby he may arrive at the most accurate measurement of perforations. Before proceeding to this part of the subject, let me assure the beginner that such measurement may well be left until he has mastered the initial difficulties. Later on he will see the need of measuring perforations. In the meanwhile, he will do well to note that stamps, even though identical in design and watermark, often differ in perforation, and their difference in marketable value depends on this difference in perforation. If he finds several apparently identical stamps which are catalogued with different perforations, let him put them on one side until he is in a position to measure their perforations. Many stamps have been looked upon as duplicates and swapped away, and great has been the owner's chagrin when he found that the so-called duplicates contained examples of rare perforations which were worth much more than the specimens he retained.

Importance of measuring Perforations

A glance through the catalogue prices of the various issues of New Zealand

amps will convince the collector of the importance of measuring perforations. Take the case of the *rd.*, lilac, of 1874, *mk. NZ* and *Small Star*. It was first issued with a perforation $12\frac{1}{2}$. For a short time it also appeared with a compound perforation $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$. The latter of these is scarce. The first of the series can be bought for 6d. used, but the *rd.* with the compound perforation is valued about ten times as much. *Ex uno, disce* *ne*. In the case of stamps which appear with the same design and paper and watermark, but with different perforations, always measure the perforations.

How to measure Perforations

The general method adopted to measure perforations is to use what is known as 'perforation gauge.' This consists of a piece of stiff cardboard on which are mounted black disks at varying distances apart in spaces of two centimetres. This gauge can be bought from any stamp dealer for a few pence. Here is a facsimile of one.

To get the most accurate measurement by this means, place the stamp on the particular gauge chosen as the probable perforation, so that the projecting teeth of the stamp fit over the black dots on the gauge.

Another method of measurement is to take a knife-edged ivory rule on which a space of two centimetres is marked off. [N.B.—Such a space is marked off on a stamp gauge.] Place the stamp at one end of the two-centimetre space in the middle of one of the projecting teeth, and count the number of holes which occupy the marked-out space. The naming of "perf. bare 12" or "bare 13" can then be seen at once.

Changes in Perforations

Stamps which depend on the alteration of perforations, in order to change a common stamp into a rarity, require a great deal of ingenuity for their production. A comparison between such a stamp and the genuine specimen

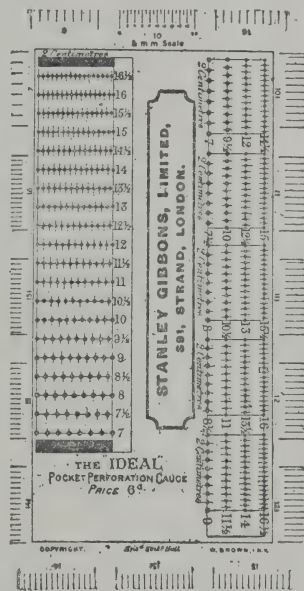
would generally reveal the fraud. But, unfortunately for the average collector, the faker's art, in this respect, is limited to the production of perforations which are scarce and therefore difficult to procure for the purpose of comparison. In such cases, when a genuine specimen is not within reach of the collector, he is too apt to rely on his gauge, which is useless in the case of forged perforations carefully done. The comparison between the forged and the genuine is the only safe test.

Early in the year 1903 a Brisbane correspondent wrote to *Gibbons Monthly* with reference to stamps fraudulently perforated $9\frac{1}{2} \times 12$. He related how the $9\frac{1}{2}$ perforating machine had been sent to New Guinea for commercial purposes; and some one unknown had seized the opportunity to put through old sheets of Queensland, 1882, perf. 12. A catalogue reference will reveal the possible gain

accruing to such an individual by transforming a sheet of the *rd.*, pink, perf. 12, into the *rd.*, pink, perf. 9×12 (i.e. provided he found a market for his wares, which he seems to have done in some cases).

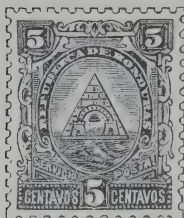
The reader, then, will not be surprised to hear that the forging of scarce perforations has occupied a large portion of the faker's time. Extensive operations of this kind, carried on during a period of four years, were detected in Sydney in July, 1903. Careful inquiries led to the exposure of the person responsible for their sale and his hurried departure from Sydney to America. A long list of his "fakes" is given on page 155, volume

XIII, of *Gibbons Monthly*. The stamps of New South Wales played a prominent part. Stamps of Queensland, South Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Fiji were also transformed into rare varieties. It is scarcely necessary to point the moral. In case of rare varieties of perforations, buy only from responsible dealers, who, if they find that they have fallen victims to a most ingenious fraud, which is rarely probable, will promptly refund all moneys paid for the said frauds.



A PICTORIAL PHILATELIC POEM

By W. E. IMESON



WHEN first I took up stamps,
For "pictures" bright and gay
A turn my fancy took
(O happy childhood's day!).
Though fancy fickle proved,
And false to my first love,
I've still a soft spot for
The "treasures" shown above.



Then came the second stage,
Plate-number rare and die
I learned to spot at sight
(Indeed 'twas all my eye!).
In reconstructing "panes"
I took both pains and pride,
My line in line-engraved
Is shown on either side.



Now, as a mogul great,
I've reached stage number three:
The so-called rarest stamps
Are merely "scarce"—to me.
Of many a "gem" my "blanks"
Contain full many a row;
I've one full page, at least,
Of each stamp shown below!



GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Watermark Developments

WE are evidently in for many changes in the watermark direction. Brazil has started a watermark which consists of the repetition of the words ESTADOS UNIDOS BRAZIL all over the sheet, so that a letter or some portion of a letter falls in each stamp.

Then we are told that Germany will soon start printing its stamps upon watermarked paper. I would suggest to the Great Shah that a mailed fist in outline would be quite the thing.

And last, but not least, are the impending changes that may be expected in the Australian stamps. The new Crown and A paper has been used for the Victorian d., and now the *Australian Philatelist* tells us that the stamps of the various states will be printed upon the new paper supplies are required. It will therefore be wise to keep a very sharp eye upon new Australians, for until the coming Australian Commonwealth series is settled and issued all the interim issues must be more or less ephemeral.

Tasmanians

ACCORDING to the Melbourne *Argus*, when the current supplies of the picture stamps are exhausted no more will be truck off, and we are further informed

that a promise was made to the Federal Government that the King's Head should be printed on all Australian stamps.

This is a bit foggy, for all other information goes to show that the postal authorities of the Commonwealth are quite undecided what they will do, and as the Postmasters-General are in to-day and out to-morrow in Jack-in-the-box style, it would be very rash to say what may happen.

There seems, however, a pretty general objection to a portrait of the King, and seeing what Australian postal artists have made of their so-called portraits of Queen Victoria, His Majesty may be congratulated upon his chances of escaping caricature. He cannot be very anxious to be depicted with an out-all-night-in-the-bush appearance.

Straits Settlements

THE stamps of this colony are all of a jumble. Some low values are of the large Head of King design and others with the small head, and there seems to be no move in the direction of completing the series in the larger head type. I suspect the colonial authorities have found the plan they inaugurated of having a separate framework for each stamp a little too costly, and have had to stay their hand with their projected variety of designs.

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NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Barbados.—It is said this colony proposes to have another try at a commemorative issue of postage stamps. This time the Nelson Centenary is to be made the excuse for yet another set of stamps.

Danish West Indies.—Some months since a series of new design was announced for this Danish colony, but the actual stamps have only just come to hand. They are of peculiar design, as will be seen from our illustration, with portrait *à la silhouette*. The currency is altered to "bits." Four bits are said to equal 5 cents of the superseded currency, a bit being a little less than our halfpenny.

The stamps are watermarked with a Crown, and perforated.



Perforated.

- 5 bits, green.
- 10 " vermillion.
- 20 " green; head blue.
- 25 " blue.
- 40 " vermillion; head grey.
- 50 " yellow; head grey.

Gambia.—The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value has been received on multiple CA paper, making the list of multiples to date as follows:—



Multiple CA. Perf.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine.
- 3d., magenta and ultramarine.
- 5d., grey and black.
- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green and carmine.
- 10d., olive-brown and carmine.
- 1s., violet and green.
- 2s., dark slate and orange.

North Borneo.—At the end of 1904 the North Borneo Company had what was termed a clearance sale of old stock, with sensational reductions, obsolete stamps of many values up to one dollar being cut down to "4 cents" by a surcharge.

Now there is apparently to be a clearance sale the higher values. We have received the 2 dol. 5 dols., and 10 dols. of the 1886-9 series marked down to "4 cents," with a surcharge in black.



Perforated.

- "4 cents" on 2 dols., sage-green.
- "4 cents" on 5 " mauve.
- "4 cents" on 10 " brown.

Philippines.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S., says: "Die proofs of all the denominations of the new series of stamps for the Philippines have been sent within the past few days to the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department and by that Bureau forwarded to the postal authorities at Manila. When the die proofs have been approved by Mr. Cotterman, or such changes as he may suggest have been made, then the plates will be made by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the plates shipped to Manila, where they will be used in the manufacture of the stamps. None of the Philippine stamps will be printed in the United States.

"Of course it is impossible to conjecture how Mr. Cotterman will be pleased with the die proofs, but in view of the fact that the drawings from which the dies were engraved were first approved by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, it is reasonable to assume that the changes suggested by Mr. Cotterman will be small, if indeed, he shall make any changes. The stamps are destined to make a very satisfactory showing, and some of them will be of special merit."

From the same paper we quote the following information concerning the overprinted stamps:—

"The latter part of last week the Bureau of Engraving and Printing completed and shipped the following order of current United States stamps surcharged 'Philippines.'"

| | | | |
|--------|---|---|---------|
| 10,000 | . | . | 3 cent. |
| 10,000 | . | . | 4 cent. |
| 10,000 | . | . | 6 cent. |
| 500 | . | . | \$2.00 |
| 200 | . | . | \$5.00 |

"This, it is believed, completes the surcharging of the current series for the Philippines. It is not fancied that the 500 \$2 and the 200 \$5 stamps will last long."

San Marino.—*Provisional.*—This little Italian toy republic, following the example of Italy, has surcharged its 20 c. stamp with the figures "15." The surcharge is printed over the original value in the right lower corner, and in the upper part of the stamp is the date "1905," all in black.



Provisional.

"15" on 20 c., brown-orange.

Sierra Leone.—We have now received the full series up to and including 5s. of King's Heads on the multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| ½d. | purple and green. |
| 1d. | rosine. |
| 1½d. | black. |
| 2d. | brown-orange. |
| 2½d. | ultramarine. |
| 3d. | grey. |
| 4d. | rosine. |
| 5d. | black. |
| 6d. | purple. |
| 1s. | green and black. |
| 2s. | ultramarine. |
| 5s. | carmine. |

United States.—According to the *Metropolitan Philatelist*, U.S., some changes of colour are being made in the current stamps. It says: "The Post Office Department recently ordered a change to be made in the colour of the 10 cent stamps of the current issue. So much complaint came from postmasters and from patrons that the colours of the 10 and 4 cents values were so similar as to be easily confused, that the Department decided to change the colour of the 10 cent. Sheets of the new shade have arrived at the local post office, and it is very noticeable that the colour is much more of a reddish tinge than formerly. While the new 10 cents stamp is still distinctively brown, it is a red-brown as against a brown for the 4 cent. It is suggested that another dash of colour, perhaps of yellow, may be incorporated into the ink used on the 10 cent, making the difference still more marked."

Western Australia.—We have received the 5d. value watermarked V and Crown, but instead of having POSTAGE added to the label of value, like others of the current series, the old type of 1885-93 has been reissued on the new watermarked paper.



Wmk. V and Crown. Perf.
5d., olive-yellow.

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THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XXII (continued)

Wherein it is shown how William and Betty, having reached their object, despair of ever attaining it

WE can easily believe that Betty also had had an idea of rushing off to the Prince's palace; but as she never doubted her rival would go himself, it was even more important to prevent his doing so by constant watchfulness, and to wait patiently for a time when she should be free to pay her own visit without fear of interruption.

"What a delightful evening!" she exclaimed. "Do you care for a walk?"

"If you like," said William, trying to make the best of it.

So they started on foot towards the town again and walked for a long time, talking all the while of insignificant matters. But when the hour was past at which they could decently call upon the Prince they confessed to feeling very tired, and, returning to the hotel, retired to their rooms, not without mysteriously impressing, the one on John and the other on Victoria, the fact that each wished to be called at six o'clock the next morning. This was done.

William, while dressing, had opened his window, which commanded a view of the bay, and breathed the morning air, rejoicing already in the prospect of a speedy triumph.

"Perhaps it is a little early to pay a visit to the Prince," he reflected. "But, though these Neapolitans are indolent, they don't stand on ceremony, and he will receive me in his bedroom. And besides, I have no choice."

One thing troubled him a little, however. John, now quite sober, confessed that he had indeed revealed to Victoria the fact that the Maharajah's stamp was to be found with Prince Albrandi.

The young American finished dressing all the quicker on receipt of this news, took his hat and gloves, and left his room just as the clock struck seven. But scarcely had he taken a dozen steps along the corridor before an exclamation of disappointment escaped him—

"What, you again!"

"Gracious goodness! Yes."

It was Betty, Betty herself, who, called at the aforesaid hour by Victoria, had also risen in haste, and was now feeling thoroughly discomfited at the fact that her rival had had the same idea as herself. For a moment they remained looking at each other without knowing what to say or how to account for their early morning energy. Then, overcome by the absurdity of the mystery with which they were surrounded the object of their attempted visits, a secret which was no longer a secret, Betty burst out laughing and said—

"Since we cannot manage this business alone, shall we go together to Prince Albrandi?"

William was at first little pleased at obtaining this clear proof of the truth of John's confession. But if he was inclined to be pessimistic, it seldom lasted long, on account of his energy and excellent disposition.

"Upon my word," he said, almost cheerfully, "I really think it would be about the best thing we could do."

"Really? Wouldn't it annoy you?"

"No more than any other unavoidable event."

"Well, in that case, it's very good of us to have got up at such an unseasonable hour. Shall we wait till twelve o'clock?"

"That is the time for the siesta."

"Ten o'clock, then?"

"Very good."

"Good-bye for the present."

"Good-bye." And each returned to their respective rooms to try and snatch a few moments more sleep well enough pleased, if the truth were known, at being able to speak and act openly in the matter. At about a quarter to ten John handed his master closed envelope, seemingly stuffed with papers.

"Victoria has just given me this for you, sir, said he.

William immediately opened the envelope and drew out a card and twenty delightful thousand-franc notes. They came from Betty, who had no longer any interest in keeping her rival without money.

The card was thus inscribed—

"Betty Scott, delighted at losing a creditor and preserving a friend, begs Mr. William Keniss to accept the enclosed and to remember that, according to the terms of his agreement, he must from this moment again become gallant."

"What an extraordinary girl!" murmured the young man. "What a generous nature! What fearlessness! And how well she knows how to add charming grace to all her actions!"

And he slipped the notes into his pocket, and the card itself, which he could not resist first carrying to his lips.

We can imagine his earnest thanks and tender gratitude when, a quarter of an hour later, he met his lovely rival in the drawing-room. He also gave her a detailed account of his visit to the Maharajah, having no longer any interest in keeping it from her. Betty laughed heartily, gave him her little hand a kiss without affectation, and then said—

"My dear competitor, I think it is quite time we started on our quest. But whose fine equipage can this be?" she added, glancing through the window.

William looked, and, being equally struck by himself, said—

"We shall get a nearer view as we go out."

They had just reached the hall as a tall, very bronzed gentleman, with black moustache, long, hooked nose and big hands covered with yellow gloves, came in and furiously accosted the manager, who was standing near.

"Sir," he cried, "I have just heard that there was a scandalous demonstration in front of this hotel yesterday, in which, it appears, my name was largely implicated."

The manager, who, no doubt, was well acquainted with the new arrival, bowed profusely, and in his embarrassment could only murmur, "But your Highness— But your Highness—"

"Keep to the point," said the big man, gesticulating freely. "I have been assured that some puppy who is staying here provoked this saturnalia; and I tell you the matter shall not rest there."

"But your Highness—" stammered the manager, bowing still and in greater distress than ever.

"Well! What have you to say for yourself?"

"Why—why—it was not my fault."

The manager evidently wished himself a thousand miles away from his ferocious questioner. He had

lost all his self-possession, and could not think of a single excuse. William and Betty had heard every word, and soon guessed in whose presence they were. The young American felt that it was incumbent on him to speak, as the responsibility rested in a great measure on his shoulders, and he also saw that, however unpleasant it might be to enter into the matter, it was a providential opportunity of gaining his purpose.

"Is it not Prince Albrandi to whom I have the honour of speaking?" he said, advancing, hat in hand.

"To Prince Albrandi himself," replied that individual, eyeing William haughtily from head to foot, without taking off his hat.

"In that case," continued the young man, seeming not to notice the Prince's arrogance, "it is for me to make excuses concerning the unfortunate affair to which you have alluded. Moreover, I was just coming to call upon you."

"May I ask to whom I have the honour of speaking?" asked the Prince disdainfully.

"To Mr. William Keniss of New York. If you will be good enough to come into the drawing-room, I shall have the honour of explaining——"

"Then it is of you I must demand the reason of this foolery?"

The Prince, without recalling to mind the fact that it was Mr. Keniss who had sent him the telegram from Paris, put the question with such offensive haughtiness that William could no longer pretend not to notice it, and he returned icily—

"No, sir, of my valet, for whom I thought it my duty to offer myself as substitute, but with whom I will leave you to discuss the matter, since you seem to prefer it."

Nothing confounds insolence like a coldly polite speech, which immediately gives the insolent one an uneasy feeling of inferiority. So great was the Prince's surprise at anyone daring to take such a tone with him that he supposed William must be a personage of great importance, so he took off his hat and replied in a softened tone—

"I am ready to listen to your explanation, sir." And, followed by William and Betty too, he entered the drawing-room.

There the young American gave an account of the adventure in a few words, and the reasons which had caused all the echoes of the Villa to resound with Prince Albrandi's name, and ended by again expressing his regret at an inconvenience which must be attributed rather to stupidity than to any wish to annoy an honourable gentleman. When William saw that the Prince, being amused at his recital, had calmed down, and seemed inclined to forget the attitude he had first taken, he told him frankly the object of his journey, letting him know what an important place he himself had therein, and, leading him up to Betty, who had remained apart, he said by way of conclusion—

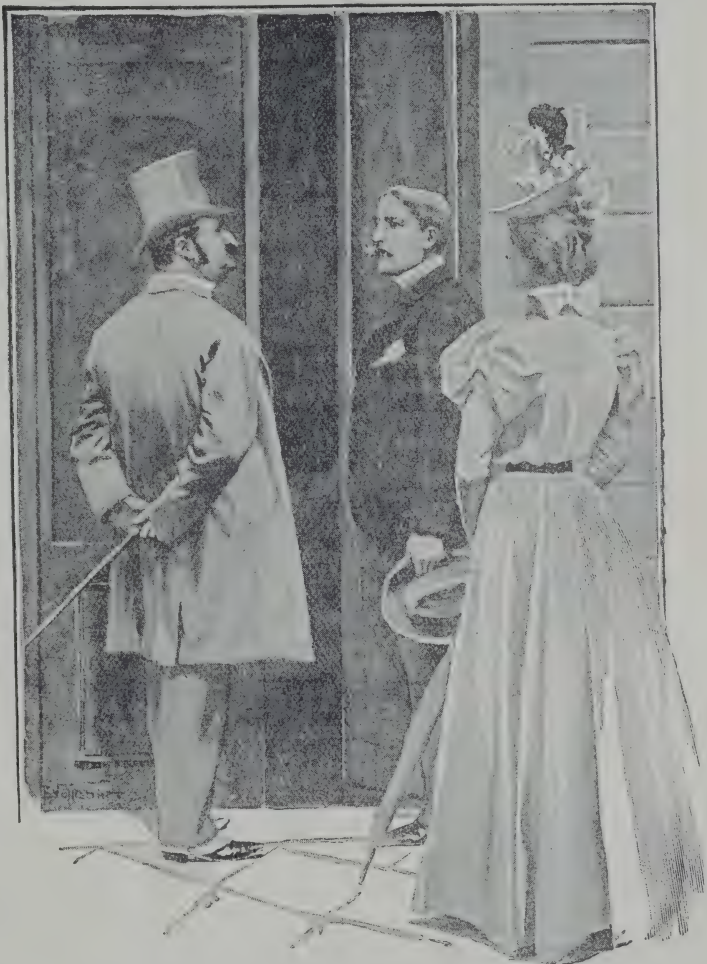
"This is my rival, Miss Betty Scott, also of New York, whom I am proud to call, in spite of our competition, the best and most faithful of my friends."

Then, suddenly conceited though he was, the Prince

launched out into politenesses. He prayed to be forgiven for having shown himself at first in so unfavourable a light, and manifested a tardy desire to make himself agreeable to his two fellow-philatelists.

"One thing causes me great concern," he said. "It is that this stamp of mine, which is the object of your keen desire, is not for sale."

"Not even if you fix the price to suit yourself?" asked William insidiously.



THE PRINCE EYED WILLIAM HAUGHTILY

The Prince hesitated before the magnificence of this disguised offer, but pride for the moment triumphing over cupidity, he returned—

"No; do not press the matter. It is the finest thing in my collection, and I cannot part with it."

"Two hundred thousand francs?" insinuated Betty.

"No, no," said Albrandi brusquely, as if he feared to allow himself to be tempted. "But, in any case, I hope you will do my collection the honour of examining it. Many connoisseurs hold it in high esteem, and I should greatly value your opinion."

"With much pleasure," said William and Betty with one voice, delighted at the opportunity thus offered them.

"But wait," said the Prince. "It happens that to-morrow evening I am giving a fête at my Pausilippe

Palace, and I shall be flattered and delighted if you will do me the honour of attending. Forgive the impromptu invitation, seeing it is given with so much goodwill."

Such kind attention could only meet with acceptance, so the two young people promised all he wished, and after he had taken leave of them declared him to be the most charming man in the world. But the thought that they had undertaken a fruitless journey, and that the stamp was found at last, only to escape them, filled them with profound melancholy.

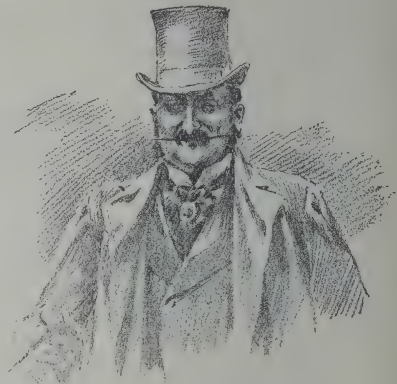
"We shall at least have the satisfaction of looking at it," said Betty philosophically.

"A very small satisfaction," returned William.

They received another visit that same day from the head of the police, who also came to learn all he could concerning the scandal of the previous evening. This amiable man, totally different from the police in the north, did not trouble to put on a dark and sinister air. He was highly amused at the recital which William went through again for his benefit, and seemed delighted that the two Americans were invited to Prince Albrandi's on the morrow.

"We shall meet again there, and I congratulate myself," he said, adding, as he rose to leave—

"By the way, I am on the track of your thief. In addition to the pleasure of seeing you to-morrow evening, I shall have that of telling you of his arrest."



(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Italian Letter

ROME, 22 September, 1905

The New Provisional 15 c.

THE lowering of the postage on inland letters in Italy is an accomplished fact. On 1 September appeared the new stamp with surcharge "C. 15" on the 20 cent. of 1901, as chronicled already by *G. S. W.*, and also a letter card with the same surcharge. But this card is of a special printing, as the figures "20" in the heading have been replaced by "15." It has not been mentioned hitherto that the provisional stamps and letter cards have been ready since 1903, when the project of the postal reform was laid before the Chamber of Deputies for the first time. A supply of 22,140,000 stamps was prepared at that time, and last June there was another printing of 20,000,000, which gave a total of 42,140,000 stamps, a very respectable figure. As to the letter cards: 58,000 were printed in 1903, and 100,000 in 1905. Thus neither the stamp nor the letter card is likely to become rare; there will be enough for everybody.

The Proposed New Pictorial Issue

The daily political newspapers have announced as "near at hand" the issue of a set of "artistic" stamps of Italy, these stamps being after the designs made by our painter Michetti. There has been some talk thereof for some time,* but the truth of the matter is that nothing has been decided upon so far as to their issue. As a rule people are not satisfied with the present types, and there is a wish to do better, and this is doubtless very praiseworthy. But, in my opinion, it is wrong to wish to compare our surface-printed stamps with those, for example, of the Congo Free State, of the United States, of Crete, etc. In most cases one does not take into account the fact that in surface-printing, no matter however carefully it be done, it is impossible to obtain the sharpness and brilliancy of impression obtained in engraving the stamps from steel plates. Now, our "Officina Governativa delle Carte-Valori," that is, the Government

Postal Printing Office, was founded in 1865 on the model of the firm of De La Rue and Co., of London, which supplied the material, and that only for the production of postage stamps, State fiscal paper values, etc., made by typographical processes. The regulations of the Italian Postal Law now in operation compel the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to have the stamps, cards, etc., made by the Government Printing Works. In the present Ministry of Posts there is a desire to get rid of this obligation; there has been a question of entrusting to a private firm the making of the stamp of 15 c. decided upon. I do not think I am wrong in saying that a start has been made in this respect. This has stirred the staff of the Government Printing Works, and a protest was made, as it was feared that the work would grow less. Moreover, the terms of the law to which I have alluded have not been changed, and it is believed that an alteration is necessary in order to be able to give a private firm the order to supply the stamps. I really do not know how the matter will turn out. Still, we shall have something new before long. Let us hope that it will be a step in the right direction.

A San Marino Provisional

The lowering of the postage on letters has extended itself to the republic of San Marino, which, postally, is a sort of dependency of Italy, and has furnished it with a suitable opportunity for providing us with new surcharged stamps. A "little bird" has told me that that good man Herr Otto Bickel, who was the father of the surcharged stamps of 1892, has betaken himself to San Marino (a walk to Mont Titan is very agreeable in summer), and has instigated the issue of a surcharged stamp, of which, it is needless to say, the stock has been bought up, and thus this provisional is on the rise already. It is really shameful to see a republic, which was proud enough to refuse an offer made by a society which wished to found there a great gambling-house on the lines of Monte Carlo, give way to a petty speculation in postage stamps. But perhaps I am in the wrong, and somebody may think it is all very right.

* See *G. S. W.*, Vol. I, No. 9, page 145.

More "Charity" Stamps

On the occasion of the disasters which have ravaged Calabria it was suggested special "Charity" stamps on the lines of the example set lately by Russia should be issued. The idea was announced in a letter signed "A Philatelist-Philanthropist," and published in the *Gironale d'Italia*. Let us hope that such an issue will be spared to us, for I find that one can be charitable without minting money on the backs of stamp collectors.

Death of Two Italian Stamp Dealers

It is my sad duty to have to announce the death of two Italian stamp dealers. One of them was doubtless unknown in England; the other, on the other hand, had numerous acquaintances among the English dealers, and he had been to London several times. Mr. Luigi Dal Cesso, who died in Venice last July, was one of those dealers who scarcely advertise themselves at all, and who limit their work almost entirely to seeking old stamps on letters from old business firms, etc. Starting as a collector while he was still at school in Turin in the sixties, he had had numerous opportunities of getting together some excellent things. Going to Venice later, he untiringly continued his work of exploring the "undiscovered country," and thus he had often saved a heap of old stamps from being destroyed. It seems to me that Philately owes a great deal to these modest workers, who have dug up, so to say, so many hidden treasures. The original letter, addressed to a business house in Venice, and franked by two stamps of 4 annas, India, 1854, with inverted portrait, and which is to be seen now in the British Museum, came from a lot which my regretted friend had the good fortune to find. Mr. Dal Cesso had neglected stamps of recent years, and he did not leave a very important stock. I hear that it has been sold for 14,000 lire, or about £560. And thus another of the "fathers" of Italian Philately disappears, and another honest man has said "Good-bye" to us for ever.

The other loss which I have to mention took place on 16 September. I refer to the death of Cavaliere Vittoria E. Capanna, of Leghorn, who for many years had acted as Consul of the Netherlands in his native town. His father, Pietro, had been one of the earliest collectors, and I recall having come across his name in one of the oldest English stamp papers. Vittoria Capanna had inherited from his father, besides the outward signs of a "real gentleman," the qualities both of a refined and animated talker and of a merry and kindly comrade, and also the love of stamp collecting. He made a collection in his youth, and sold it for a pretty good price in those days. Several years afterwards he began another collection, and in only a few months he had carried it forward very quickly. In order to gain his end he had entered into business relations with numerous dealers, and this led him little by little to become himself a dealer. The high price of the stamps of the old Italian States towards 1895 was due to him in great part, for he wanted to buy largely of these stamps, and was not to be discouraged by the high prices which were asked for them. This was how he came to get together a large and choice stock. Unfortunately his dealings in stamps did not give him the profit which he expected to derive from them, and his business—he was a commercial broker and agent for shipping firms—also went through a great crisis, which he hoped, nevertheless, to be able to overcome, and which he doubtless would have succeeded in putting straight, thanks to his really remarkable activity, if a painful malady had not taken him off.

I can still recall my friend Capanna at Geneva in 1896 during the Philatelic Exhibition there. He was the "spoilt child" of the big-wigs of Philately who had met on the shores of Lake Léman. Our poor friend has left a widow and a boy to mourn his early death, and I venture to express to them my keen and sincere sorrow.

EMILIO DIENA.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.

Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

Annual Dinner

THE Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society of London was held on Wednesday, 11 October, 1905, at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent Street, London.

Mr. M. P. Castle, J.P., of Brighton, presided, and was supported by a large number of members and visitors of the Society, amongst whom we noticed Baron Percy de Worms, Colonel Bonhole, Mr. Stewart-Wilson, Captain Napier, Mr. H. R. Oldfield, Mr. Ehrenbach, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Hausburg, Mr. Yardley, Mr. Wickham Jones, Mr. Biggs, Mr. C. J. Phillips, Mr. Schwabacher, Mr. W. Hall, Mr. Reichenheim, Mr. Daun, Mr. Slade, Mr. Nankivell, Mr. Hamilton-Smith, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Bagshawe, Mr. W. T. Wilson, Mr. Frentzel, Mr. Rudolph Meyer.

The Chairman proposed the royal toasts, with special reference to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as the President of the Society.

Colonel Bonhole proposed the toast of "The Vice-President and the Officers of the Society." He said he was but a very junior member of the Society and could not claim to be much of a speaker. But they would all join with him in regretting the enforced absence of their Vice-President, the Earl of Crawford. Many of them had enjoyed the privilege of inspecting

some of his philatelic treasures, and others would have an opportunity on Friday evening. The Philatelic Society of London filled a very important place in the philatelic life of the country, its fine publications contributed very largely to maintain the standard of Philately throughout the world.

Mr. Oldfield, responding for the officers, twitted the critics of the Society who said it lived on its past. Some day he believed it would dawn upon those critics that the Society had promoted exhibitions that had not been beaten. Towards the end of 1906 they would probably discover that the Society had promoted an International Exhibition, that they had in some way done something for Philately. It had been announced that important information would be given them about the coming Exhibition. When that announcement was made they had not anticipated that the prospectus would have been already published. It was now in their hands, and they could judge for themselves of what the Society was doing to promote the interests of Philately.

Mr. Ehrenbach then proposed the toast of "The Philatelic Press," and hoped it would back up the forthcoming Exhibition. The Press of the philatelic hobby was much more dignified in this country than in other countries. It did not indulge in personalities, and it published valuable philatelic matter. He coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Nankivell.

Mr. Nankivell having responded,

Mr. Capper gave some extraordinary exhibitions in releasing himself from knot-tying, thought-reading.

Mr. Wickham Jones, in proposing "The Visitors," said they had present several gentlemen who were both ornamental and useful. He hoped they had not been bored by their talking shop. Possibly they regarded them as more or less harmless lunatics. However, as they had been kind enough to come and help them to enjoy themselves, he appealed to his fellow-members to drink their healths.

Mr. Oliver responded.

Mr. Reichenheim proposed the health of the Chairman, the company rising and singing, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Mr. Castle, in response, acknowledged the very kind manner in which the toast of his health had been received. He had hoped the Earl of Crawford would have been able to take the chair. The Chairman, in concluding, related a philatelic dream which had nearly unfitted him for being present.

During the evening Mr. Froude (not the shade of the historian) gave several enjoyable musical sketches.

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

The J. P. S. Diploma

EVERY member of the Junior Philatelic Society is entitled to compete for the diploma of the Society, which is offered subject to the following conditions:—

1. Collections or other exhibits entered must be the absolute property of the member competing; papers read in the contests must be the sole work of the member.

2. Members, when sending in their entries, must clearly state whether they are in Class A, i.e. for those over 21 years of age; or Class B, i.e. for those under 21.

3. The successful collections in these entries will be exhibited at the meetings, and any others the Examining Committee may deem worthy of display.

4. While every possible care will be taken of entries, the Examining Committee cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage of same.

5. In matters of dispute the decision of the Examining Committee is final, and members entering are permitted to do so only on this understanding.

6. The diplomas will be awarded, not so much for large and valuable displays, as for the knowledge, accuracy, and skill displayed in the arrangement and selection of the stamps.

7. Collections must be sent to the *Hon. Sec. of the Examining Committee, Mr. R. Shepherd, 21, Hubert Grove, Stockwell, S.W.*, not later than seven days before the meeting night on which they are to be displayed, or, if not bulky, they may be handed in to him at the preceding meeting. All collections to be returned by post must contain stamped addressed wrapper for their return, and it is recommended that the usual fee of 2d. be added for registration while in the post.

The dates of the Competitive nights are: 1905—4 November, Great Britain. 1906—6 January, Philatelic Literature and Short Papers; 7 April, for lady members; 21 April, United States. Full particulars will be sent to any one on application to the Hon. Secretary, H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

The J. P. S. Badge

It has been brought to the notice of the Secretary that members of the Junior Philatelic Society are being, and have been, circularized by a private member with regard to a badge which is *not* the official badge authorized and issued by the Committee. The J. P. S. badge can only be obtained through the Hon. Secretary, no other official or member being authorized to supply it.

THE opening meeting for the season of the Junior Philatelic Society was held at Exeter Hall, London W.C., on Saturday, 7 October, 1905, and was an earnest of the continuance of the splendid attendance of last year. One hundred and twenty-three members were present during the evening, and four visitors. A small party assembled as early as half-past five for tea and exchange, and by shortly after six o'clock some threescore of exchangers had assembled in the hall, and the exchanging was brisk. By eight, when the formal meeting commenced, there was a full muster. After passing the minutes, it was announced that forty-eight members had been elected during the summer months, and then the meeting proceeded to the election of the following fifty-eight members, bringing the total up to 526.

Mrs. Westcott, Ilford; W. Adlam, London; W. Mohr, London; Thomas H. Briggs, Brigg; Henry W. Allen, London; C. F. Clarke, London; H. E. E. Pankhurst, London; D. Field, London; J. H. Hewitt, London; H. G. Ambrose, Northwood; C. Raymond Megson, London; Chas. J. Endle, Bournemouth; W. Allen Harmer, Tonbridge; Miss A. L. Reynolds, Sutton; Miss F. Mildred Mason, Chesterfield; Rev. James Henry Rice, Balrath; C. H. Harben, London; E. H. Thompson, London; Arthur Waring, London; W. H. Lord, London; H. V. McKenzie, Torquay; Sidney Vigers, London; Arthur Gastrell Dear, Croydon; Donald Junor, Birmingham; John L. Hopper, Castle Eden; John Read Burton, London; William Gilbert, South Woodford; Miss Linda Bicknell, Shinrone; Oswald C. B. Brown, York; Miss Margaret D. Mason, Chesterfield; George Reginald Wood, Barnsley; F. J. Newitt, London; Thos. Fearnhead, Lytham; O. Gantzer, London; Edwin Waddington, Bradford; George Gearing Hiatt, Slough; W. Clifford, Hounslow; C. G. Early, Witney; Frank A. Denny, London; Henry Harvey, London; E. G. Collins, London; George A. Eden, London; Capt. F. Crooker, Stoke; Mrs. Alice M. Statham, Hale; Percy Preston, Burnley; Walton R. Burrell, Bury St. Edmunds; Ian S. Clarke, Nairn; A. G. Gardner, London; G. S. Damsell, Reading; J. Mullo Weir, Edinburgh; T. J. V. Usher, Southsea; Alfred Conquest, Hastings; Rev. H. A. Soames, Sevenoaks; E. E. Kingwall, London; Ronald J. Fulton, London; Victor Beaujeux, London; G. Menzies, London; E. Stratford, London.

The President delivered an instructive address, full of sound advice to the young collector, and at the conclusion Mr. James Feeney proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Melville for his address, and incidentally congratulated him on the excellent programme which he had been responsible for preparing for the season. It presented a really remarkable variety of philatelic entertainment, and was in every way worthy of the position of the Society as the largest in this country. Mr. C. B. Purdom seconded, and the vote was carried with enthusiastic applause.

The Vice-President, Mr. Bertram Poole, next gave an interesting chat on the stamps of British Somaliland, the types of which he illustrated in many cases by means of sketches on a blackboard. The lecture was further illustrated by a choice display of the stamps. Mr. Poole was cordially thanked on the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. Halliday.

A most surprising item was that which had been concealed under the unassuming title of "The Gentle Art of Stamp Collecting," in which Mr. C. B. Purdom introduced an entirely new presentation of the mysteries of Philately and the commonplaces of stamp collecting. The keynote to the paper was perhaps contained in the sentence, "The collector is the materialist and the philatelist the mystic; stamp collecting is a business and Philately a religion."

The ideals of Mr. Purdom are perhaps far removed from the actualities of present-day stamp collecting and Philately. Yet the appreciation of his carefully

considered utterances was enthusiastic. The meeting unanimously accorded Mr. Purdom a very hearty vote of thanks for his thoughtful paper.

Announcements were made with regard to the permanent collection, of gifts acknowledged by Mr. R. Halliday, the Curator; to the library, by Mr. E. A. Smart, the Librarian; and the forgery collection, by Mr. H. Lee, the Secretary of the Expert Committee.

The next meeting was announced for 21 October, the Nelson Centenary Meeting, when there will be paper on "Posts in Nelson's Time," by the President; paper and display on English Telegraph Companies and their Stamps, by Mr. R. Halliday; and a display of Cape Colony, by Mr. Ernest Heginbottom. Members who are able to attend should endeavour to bring their entries for the Great Britain competitive contest for November, so that they may be handed in to Mr. R. Shepherd, Secretary of the Examining Committee, in good time. Mr. Shepherd will be in attendance from 10.15 to 11.0 on 21 October, to receive entries in both classes, (a) for collectors over twenty-one, (b) under twenty-one. Every member is urged to enter his collection of Great Britain, and as arrangement (not extent) is the chief qualification for the Society's diploma, small collections will be equally eligible with large ones.

No tickets are being issued for meetings this season, but visitors are always heartily welcomed. Members will receive no further notice of the meetings of 1 October and 4 November, so they should enter their dates in their diaries so as not to overlook them. Annual subscriptions (1s. 6d.) are now due, and members renewing same are urgently invited by the Publication Committee to send an extra 1s. 1d. for the President's new and beautifully illustrated handbook on the "Stamps of the United States of America," the price of which will be raised to 1s. 7d. (post-free) in publication. The book will be ready in October, and therefore those who desire copies at the subscription rate of 1s. (post-free 1s. 1d.) must order them at once.

North of England Philatelic Society

President : G. B. Bainbridge, J.P.

Hon. Sec. : Mark Easton, 43 Sidney Grove, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Meetings : Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The second annual meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, 5 October, 1905, the Vice-President, Mr. T. D. Hume, in the chair. There was a good attendance, and the Secretary, in his report, stated that the membership is now 53; that seven packets had been circulated during the session of the gross value of £2180. 16s. 8d., from which 5838 stamps,

of gross value of £267. 9s. 4d., had been sold; and that the balance in hand, which was £4. 0s. 8d., at end of last session, now stood at £10. 1s. 8d. The Chairman moved the adoption of what he called a very satisfactory report, and the meeting carried the motion unanimously. The election of officers then took place, and resulted as follows: President, G. B. Bainbridge, J.P.; Vice-President, T. D. Hume; Committee: Dr. Parkinson, Jas. Colman, W. J. Cochrane, A. D. Owbridge, Robert Whillis, R. W. Wilkinson; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, Mark Easton.

The programme for the session was then completed, and a copy will be sent to each member as soon as it is printed.

Philatelic Society of Victoria

President : W. R. Rundell.

Secretary : W. Brettschneider.

Meetings : 128, Russell Street, Melbourne.

THE ordinary general meeting of the above Society was held at the rooms, 128, Russell Street, Melbourne, on Thursday, 10 August, 1905, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Rundell, the President, occupied the chair, and there was a good muster of members present.

The Secretary was instructed to write Messrs. Stanley Gibbons to order twelve copies of their *Stamp Weekly* for twelve months, to begin with No. 1 of Vol. II. Any member not present at the meeting, wishing to become a subscriber at a reduced rate, will oblige by notifying the Secretary.

The President informed the members that the Committee had decided, with the approval of the general meeting, to form a Society collection for reference purposes, at present of Victoria only, and a general collection of forgeries also. Both proposals found favour with the members and were carried unanimously.

Members who have duplicates, especially of Victoria, to spare for this collection, will oblige the Committee by forwarding them to the Secretary. Such donations will be duly acknowledged. Forgeries of any country will also be thankfully received.

A discussion then ensued re the proposal to form a Junior Associate Members' Branch of the Society; but the matter was referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

Positions in Exchange Book 147 were next balloted for.

Mr. Hatch donated the first five stamps for the Society collection, for which he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The inspection of two very fine collections, brought by Messrs. Rundell and Horwood respectively, concluded a very interesting meeting.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Ioi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

A New Auctioneer

DEALER auctioneers have not been a great success. Nevertheless, I am told that a Strand dealer meditates applying for an auctioneer's licence and intends mounting the rostrum this season. Is it wise?

We have already more than enough auctions in the stamp line. There are a round half-dozen already holding sales day after day on almost every day of the week, and to add another to the burden is a risky policy. We could better dispense with a few.

Big Prices for Transvaals

TRANSVAALS are now established favourites of the first rank, and the high prices which some of the rare varieties fetched at Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale on 29 September, 1905, were eye-openers to some people. They were red surcharges, as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|-----|-----|
| V.R. TRANSVAAL, 3d., surcharged in red, imperf., unused and very fine | | 12 | 0 0 |
| Ditto, 6d., blue, wide roulettes and double at bottom, fine | | 32 | 0 0 |
| Ditto, 6d., blue, with inverted surcharge, unused and very fine | | 105 | 0 0 |

One hundred guineas for a single Transvaal stamp at auction is a record, but it was a very rare stamp and probably unique, for it is not in the Taphel Collection and was not in the Nankivell Collection, I have I ever heard of another copy.

Rare Stamps of Great Britain

At Puttick and Simpson's sale there were some fine things in English, as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|----|----|---|
| 1862. gd., bistre, plate 3, with hair lines, unused, but no gum | £ | 51 | 0 |
| 1867-80. 10d., red-brown, plate 2 heavily cancelled | 16 | 10 | |
| 1872-3. 6d., buff, plate 13, heavily cancelled | 9 | 9 | |
| 1873-80. 8d., brown, unused | 4 | 0 | |
| 1902. King's Head I.R. Official, 5s., carmine, unused | 21 | 0 | |
| 1902. Government Parcels, 1s., green and scarlet, with inverted overprint | 21 | 0 | |

But a complete set of Mafeking of nineteen varieties fetched only £9 10s. How are the mighty fallen!

Single CA's

SINGLE CA's are running up to high prices in several countries, but mostly in West Africans. At Puttick the Lagos 2s. 6d. and 5s. brought £3 12s. 6d., and the 10s. of the same set ran up to £5 5s. The £1, single CA, of Southern Nigeria fetched £6 10s.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I., all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged; R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I. of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in a cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kind co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

OCTOBER, 1905

21. Philatelic Society of London: Papers with Displays—1, The FM Stamps of France; 2, The Newspaper Stamps of France, by F. Reichenheim.

The Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; 6 p.m. Paper—Posts in Nelson's Time, Fred. J. Melville; 8 p.m. Paper—The Electric and International: A Talk about British Telegraphic Companies and Stamps, R. Halliday; 8.20 p.m. Display—African Colonies I, Cape Colony; 8.40 p.m. Debate—Should great commemorations be signalized by the Issue of Special Stamps? 9.20 p.m.

23. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: President's Address Paper—Recent Developments in Postal Issues, at Carnanton, Tunbridge Wells. 3 p.m.

24 & 25. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

26 & 27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, London. 5 p.m.

27. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—Chili from 189; R. Albrecht.

31. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 18

28 OCTOBER, 1905

Vol. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

British South Africa

AS a country for the beginner, British South Africa has many attractions. It is a comparatively new stamp-issuing state; most of its stamps are within the range of the moderate collector, if we except, as we may, the highest values of the first issue, which run up to £10. Its issues are well defined and straightforward, and they are particularly interesting in design. In addition to all this, there is the interest which attaches to the territory itself, its legendary past, its interesting present, and its very problematical future.

To begin with, it is reputed to be the land of the Ophir of the Bible, and for that reason there are those who believe it will some day be the great gold-producing country of the world. In British colonization it is regarded as a great experiment. Its acquisition is due to a British lad who, after taking his M.A. at Oxford, was advised to go to South Africa to strengthen, if possible, a somewhat delicate constitution. South Africa thenceforward became his home. At first it was



a struggle, but he eventually amassed a large fortune in the Kimberley diamond mines. Then he plunged into politics, and rose to be Prime Minister of Cape Colony. Believing in the gold-producing possibilities of the country to the north of the Transvaal, he was instrumental, in 1889, in securing a royal charter for a British South Africa Company to develop those territories, which now stretch from

the Transvaal on the south to the Zambezi on the north, and from the Portuguese possessions on the east coast, across the continent to Damaraland on the west. All this vast territory, as yet but little known, is administered by the British South Africa Company, under imperial supremacy.

Its Philatelic History

We stamp collectors call it "British South Africa" because its stamps bear only the designation of the company, but the map-makers and people locally and generally are already naming it Rhodesia, after its astute and ambitious founder, Cecil Rhodes; and there is little doubt that Rhodesia will be the name of the future. Some day the Chartered Company, having done its work as a pioneer, will, like other chartered companies, give place to imperial rule, and the stamps will then be the stamps of Rhodesia. Till that final stage of colonial development is reached, the stamps of the British South Africa Company must possess a peculiar interest, for they are marking the stages of our imperial growth, and for the lad who studies his stamps they are pages in the history of our empire.

The British South Africa Company got its charter in October, 1899, and in December of the following year the first postage stamps of the company were issued.

The design is said to have been the subject of much discussion, but in the end heraldic ideas carried the day, rather than the usual stamp portraiture.

The first stamps bear an heraldic design which is a veritable *multum in parvo*. There are gold disks, representing the gold to come; there are ears of wheat foretelling the agricultural development of the country; the oxen refer to the necessary beasts of burden; the wavy lines typify the broad rivers of the Zambezi, the Limpopo, and others that traverse this South African Canaan, and the galleys the shipping that will be employed thereon; the frisky-looking creatures on either side of the shield represent the wild animals of the country. The lion is, of course, of the British Dominion variety, and other portions indicate a reference to the heraldic bearings of the Duke of Abercorn, the first president of the company.

1890. The first stamps were engraved and printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co., of London, on what is termed bank wove paper. This paper was watermarked "W. C. S. & Co., the initials of the papermaker, and the words, "Pure linen wove bank." This will explain any peculiar watermark which boys may find on these stamps. As the watermark is not a Government watermark, we collectors do not catalogue it or pay any attention to it, and only mention it to explain what may otherwise puzzle the young collector. In all there were twelve values, ranging from 1d. to £10. The high values were required for legal documents, etc., but some have been used for postal purposes and as they are available for postage they are essentially postage stamps. In gold producing countries high values are frequently used for transmitting parcels of gold, hence the postal use of the high values in British South Africa, for there are already several mines at work searching for such gold as may not have been cleared out by the Queen of Sheba and those of other days.

The 1d. to 10s. values are all of Type 1, and the pound values of the larger size of Type 2. The perforation is uniformly 14



TYPE 1.



TYPE 2.

I append the ruling catalogue prices:—

| | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| 1d., black | | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 6d., ultramarine | | 6 0 | 1 6 |
| 6d., deep blue | | 4 0 | 0 9 |
| 1s., grey-brown | | 10 0 | 2 0 |
| 2s., vermilion | | 7 6 | 5 0 |
| 2s. 6d., purple | | 7 6 | 15 0 |
| 5s., yellow | | 15 0 | 12 6 |
| 10s., deep green | | 30 0 | 30 0 |
| £1, deep blue | | 50 0 | 50 0 |
| £2, rose-red | | 50 6 | — |
| £5, sage-green | | 130 0 | 90 0 |
| £10, brown | | 250 0 | 120 0 |

1891. In the early part of this year the local authorities urged the directors at home to issue more low values, as they

were urgently needed. In the first series it will be noted the 1d. and 6d. were the only representatives of the usual low values. In order to supply immediate requirements numbers of the 6d., ultramarine, were surcharged in black $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., and 4d.; and some 1s., brown, were surcharged 8d. in large bold figures covering nearly half the stamp. These provisionals were much sought after by collectors, and for years they were retailed at 20s. the set, but now that the dealers have exhausted the stocks they laid by, prices have gone up enormously. Used copies are extremely scarce.

| <i>Perf.</i> | Unused. <i>s. d.</i> | Used. <i>s. d.</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d., ultramarine | 15 0 | 15 0 |
| 2d. " " | 60 0 | — |
| 4d. " " | 60 0 | — |
| 8d. on 1s., brown | 60 0 | — |

1891-4. As soon as the provisionals were despatched, permanent low values were at once prepared for issue. The same design was used for this purpose, the original value was removed, and in the blank thus left there was printed whatever value was needed. The printing of the value was separately done in a different colour from the rest of the stamp. In addition to the low values, 1s. and 4s. values were subsequently added.

| <i>Perf.</i> | Unused. <i>s. d.</i> | Used. <i>s. d.</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1d., deep blue, value in vermilion | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 1d., sea-green, value in vermilion | 1 0 | 0 5 |
| 1d., grey-black, value in green | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 1d., chestnut, value in black | 1 6 | 1 0 |
| 1d., rose-lake, value in ultramarine | 2 0 | 2 6 |
| 1s., brown, value in green | 10 0 | 10 0 |
| 1s., grey-black, value in vermilion | 8 0 | 15 0 |

1895. In this year the pretty little stamps of the first issue were replaced by a larger stamp of bolder design, printed in two colours. It will be seen from our illustration (Type 3) that the same heraldic



TYPE 3.

NOTE.—This is distinguished by ribbon crossing leg of supporter.

features are preserved, and to the inscriptions are added the words, "Incorporated by Royal Charter." The effect of printing such a design in two colours, and in such extraordinary combinations, is anything but pleasing, and the further combination of two colours printed on coloured paper added to their ugliness. The engraving and printing are the work of Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., who engraved and printed the first English penny stamps. In the printing the figures and words of value were worked in one colour, and the centre and rest of the design in another colour. In the case of the earlier stamps, it was complained that the bank paper did not stick well. Consequently, this new series was printed on ordinary and thicker paper, and more strongly gummed. The series comprised no less than fourteen values, and this, too, without going beyond 10s. in high values. The stamps were all of one uniform size.

| Centre in first colour. <i>Perf.</i> | Unused. <i>s. d.</i> | Used. <i>s. d.</i> |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\frac{1}{2}$ d., slate and violet | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 1d., scarlet and emerald | 0 3 | 0 2 |
| 2d., grey-brown and mauve | 0 5 | 0 4 |
| 3d., chocolate and ultramarine | 0 9 | 0 9 |
| 4d., ultramarine and mauve | 1 0 | 1 0 |
| 6d., purple and pink | 1 6 | 1 6 |
| 8d., olive-green & violet on buff paper | 1 6 | 2 6 |
| 1s. od., green and blue | 1 6 | 0 6 |
| 2s. od., indigo and green on buff paper | 2 9 | 2 9 |
| 2s. 6d., brown and purple on yellow paper | 3 3 | 3 3 |
| 3s. od., green and mauve on blue paper | 4 0 | 4 0 |
| 4s. od., red and dark blue on green paper | 5 0 | — |
| 5s. od., chestnut and green | 6 6 | 6 6 |
| 10s. od., slate and vermilion on rose paper | 12 0 | 12 0 |

1896. But before the stamps of the new design just enumerated could reach Buluwayo, the Matabele War had broken out, and the commercial centre of Buluwayo was cut off from Salisbury, the seat of government in the northern territory. The new stamps reached Salisbury, but got no farther till the back of the rebellion was broken. Meanwhile, Buluwayo had run short of 1d. and 3d. stamps. To provide these values, 1200 of the 3s. value of the first issue, and 1200 of the 4s. value of the same issue, were surcharged in black ONE PENNY in one line, and the original value at the foot was cancelled. Three thousand of the 5s. value were also surcharged in black with three bars, THREE PENCE in two lines. These stamps were soon

snapped up despite the endeavours of the postal authorities to keep voracious stamp collectors at a distance. Thereupon, considerable quantities of Cape of Good Hope stamps were obtained, and over-printed BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA in small sans-serif type, in three lines.

Surcharged on stamps of the First Issue.

| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d. on 3d. | . | 90 0 | 90 0 |
| 1d. on 4s. | . | 65 0 | 65 0 |
| 3d. on 5s. | . | 50 0 | 50 0 |

Cape stamps surcharged BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA.

| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., black | . | 1 6 | 1 6 |
| 1d., rose | . | 1 0 | 2 0 |
| 2d., brown | . | 4 0 | 4 0 |
| 3d., claret | . | 6 0 | — |
| 4d., blue | . | 6 0 | 6 0 |
| 6d., violet | . | 7 6 | 7 6 |
| 1s., yellow-ochre | . | 17 6 | 17 6 |

1897. In this year the low-value stamps, up to and including the 8d. and the 10s. changed to £1 of the Perkins Bacon series, were re-engraved by Waterlow and Sons. The design was slightly



TYPE 4.

NOTE.—This block is distinguished by ribbon *not* crossing leg of supporter.

modified, and generally improved. The work of the two engravers may easily be distinguished, but most clearly by the ends of the ribbon over the words JUSTICE and FREEDOM. In the Perkins Bacon engraving the ribbon crosses the leg of the animal above, and in the Waterlow re-engraving it does not cross the leg, but is curled up between the two legs of the animal. Whilst the extraordinarily ugly combinations of colour are preserved in the re-engraved series, they are considerably softened in tone.

Centre in first colour.

| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., olive, black, and violet | . | 0 3 | 0 3 |
| 1d., scarlet and emerald | . | 0 4 | 0 4 |
| 2d., grey-brown and mauve | . | 0 5 | 0 6 |
| 3d., red-brown and ultramarine | . | 0 5 | 0 6 |
| 4d., ultramarine and mauve | . | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 6d., purple and pink | . | 0 8 | 0 0 |
| 8d., olive and violet, on buff paper. | . | 1 6 | 2 0 |
| £1, black & red-brown, on green paper | . | 40 0 | 40 0 |

1898-1903. The unsatisfactory bi-coloured series is now being supplanted by a more pleasing design, still preserving the same heraldic features, and very closely resembling the design of the first issue—so closely, in fact, as to be almost a redrawing in some of the low values.



TYPE 5.



TYPE 6.



TYPE 7.

Figures of value are added in the upper corners, and the stamp is slightly larger than the first issue, and therefore considerably smaller than the ugly Perkins Bacon series. The pence values are all of Type 5, the shillings of Type 6, and the pounds of Type 7.

| | Perf. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., green | . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 1d., rose | . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 2d., bistre | . | 0 3 | 0 2 |
| 2½d., cobalt | . | 0 4 | 0 3 |
| 4d., olive-green | . | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 6d., mauve | . | 0 8 | 0 6 |
| 1s., ochre | . | 1 3 | 0 6 |
| 5s., orange-brown | . | 6 0 | — |
| 7s. 6d., black. | . | 9 0 | — |
| £1, dull lilac | . | 24 0 | — |
| £5, dark blue | . | £6 | — |
| £10, blue-lilac | . | £12 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

REMAINDERS AND ERRORS

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

REMAINERS must not be confused with Reprints.

Reprints are, as a rule, official reproductions made from the die or plate of an obsolete stamp. Remainers are stocks of stamps in the hands of the Government when the country produces a new issue, or when the country ceases to issue stamps of its own. The stamps of Antigua, St. Christopher, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, and the Virgin Islands were superseded by an issue for the Leeward Islands in 1890. The obsolete stamps of these islands were sold in 1892. At times we do hear of remainders being destroyed. About 120,000 Queen's Head stamps of St. Vincent were reported to have been consigned to the flames in January, 1903. More often, however, one reads of such remainders being advertised for sale to the highest bidder. Such sale of remainders undoubtedly lowers their saleable value; for it creates an abundance very often when the destruction of the said remainders would soon have caused a great scarcity. On the other hand, however, were it not for the supply of remainders of many issues, the average collector would find no little difficulty in filling up many a vacant place in his album.

There are some whose custom it is to sneer at remainders. They dub them "labels," and, metaphorically, pour cold water over them. But a "remainder" can never be a "label," provided it be of the same printing as the stamp sold over the post-office counter—unless, indeed, it was a "label" to start with. There are stamps to which the epithet "label" may very justly be applied: witness the case of the south and central states of America. In 1886 a civil engineer offered to provide, free of charge, two million stamps of a new design to Guatemala, on condition that the whole of the old issues should be handed over to him. That new Guatemala stamp might very rightly be called a "label."

"Seebecks" present a grosser case. Mr. N. F. Seebeck, Secretary to the

Hamilton Bank Note Company of New York, was the *fons et origo* of "Seebecks." He entered into a contract with certain Central American Republics, undertaking, for a period of years, to supply yearly, free of charge, postage stamps to these Republics, on condition that the design was changed each year, and that the remainders over and above those required for postal purposes were to be handed over to him. The dies and plates for the production of these stamps were also to remain the property of the company. These issues have become known as "Seebecks." The company hoped to recoup itself by the profits gained by sales to collectors. The number of these stamps that one sees from time to time in the albums of young collectors leads one to suppose that the company's scheme has met with no little success, in spite of repeated warnings in the pages of stamp journals. Boys will have "hot cakes." They realize afterwards that they have burnt their fingers over them, but then it is too late. Once more, then, let us repeat the warning. If a country is so prodigal in its issues of stamps as to present new series of designs yearly, be assured that there is some scheme on foot for finding the way to the stamp collector's pocket. Be wise in time, and leave such issues severely alone.

Many remainders have nothing to distinguish them from the stamps issued in the ordinary way. Some remainders, as, for example, certain values of the Spanish issues from 1854 to 1872, were overprinted with horizontal bars before they were disposed of to dealers. Other remainders have a hole punched through them, or are surcharged with the word "Cancelled," as is the case in some values of the 1863-72 issue of Mauritius. This brings me to the familiar question: "Ought I to put 'cancelled' stamps in my collection?" By way of answer, let me take a concrete case. The 5s., reddish purple, 1863-72 issue of Mauritius may be bought "cancelled" for 6d. The price for a "used" stamp is 10s. You cannot afford to pay

ios., but you can afford 6d. The set awaits completion, and the space will remain unfilled unless you get the "cancelled" stamp. What is the moral? Fill the space with the "cancelled" stamp if you cannot "raise the wind" for the

"used" stamp, and trust to luck to come across the latter as a bargain some day. In the meantime you have the pleasure of possessing a complete set, even though one or more of them do bear the word "Cancelled" on them.

(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

WHY SILVESTER COLLECTS STAMPS

By C. RAYMOND MEGSON

WHEN Silvester Slade entered the portals of Barratry's School, no mild sensation was caused. Never had such a youth been seen there before. Large dreamy eyes; cream coloured hair; haughty mien; a high-pitched, drawling voice—he at once presented the idea to us that he would make a splendid butt for our harmless jests and good-humoured practical jokes.

But such an idea was dismissed from our minds very soon after his arrival. A party of us was once returning to the school, when we were attacked by some roughs from the town, and the way Silvester turned some of their Hooligan complexions into the hue of a twopenny blue—with or without lines, it does not matter—established him immediately with the majority of us as a "ripping good sort."

Nevertheless, there were some who could not like him. He was æsthetic, and did not care for "footer" or cricket. He was an orphan, and had been adopted by a maiden aunt who had gained some mild reputation as an authoress through writing exciting dramas of real life about impossible people for a halfpenny morning newspaper. Reared, therefore, as Silvester had been, in a literary environment and under the protecting wing of a loving aunt right up to the time of his entering Barratry's, it was no small wonder that he had certain idiosyncrasies and a peculiar manner which many of the boys could not understand.

Johnson and I, though, liked the boy, and became very friendly with him.

Now Johnson was a youth—perhaps I should say man; he was approaching adolescence, and had eight or ten hairs on

his upper lip, I forget the exact number which he called a moustache. Well Johnson was a keen stamp collector, and tried to persuade every one whom he met to engage in the fascinating pursuit.

He tried to engender a love for stamps in Silvester, but without avail. Silvester always answered, "No, old fellah. Philately may prove itself a splendid diversion for those who love method and can grapple with hard and dry facts; but for those who live in realms of fancy, peopled with beings of their own creation, it cannot have any attraction; they need something to stimulate the imagination, not to stunt its growth," and he would never please Johnson by looking at his collection. It must not be inferred from the above remark, "something to stimulate the imagination," that Silvester was otherwise than a strict teetotaller.

Silvester wrote poetry, though no one in the school had seen any of it, and, so to relate, had a fondness for the fair sex.

One half-holiday, when a cricket match had to be played against a neighbouring scholastic establishment, one of our players disappointed us at the last moment through sickness, and we could think of no other substitute but Silvester. Johnson was captain of our team, so together we went in search of our æsthetic friend to ask him to play. We found him in the library, and, as we entered, he hurriedly shoved some paper upon which he had been writing under his blotting-pad.

We expressed our regret at having to disturb him, and explained the reason of our quest; but at first he would not accede to our earnest supplications. He explained that he was very-busy, but

when pressed to say what was of such importance as to utterly preclude him from playing in the cricket match, he told us in strict confidence that he had a divine inspiration, and was writing a sonnet to a fair creature he had seen in a diaphanous arrangement of green lace, and a toreador hat crowned with cerise poppies and yellow ribbon.

Johnson stroked his chin and twirled his "moustache." He did not know the difference between a toreador hat and a feather stole.

"Oh," he said, "I know her."

"Do you?" said Silvester eagerly. "Do——"

But Johnson interrupted him, saying, "She is the fishmonger's daughter."

Poor Silvester! his countenance fell.

"What, oh, what a disappointment!" he uttered in tragic manner. "The cream of my poetic brain wasted, wasted; utterly wasted."

"No, no, not wasted," replied Johnson. "If you will only play this afternoon, I will introduce you to my sister, and the sonnet will do for her. My sister—she has a complexion like curded milk."

Silvester's eyes widened.

"Beautiful!" he said. "How like Shelley!"

"Yes," continued Johnson, "like curded milk. And hair like fairy gossamer, eyes like the blue depths of heaven, and cheeks—and cheeks, more like the colour of a Bahamas penny red King's Head than anything else I have seen," and as he spoke he looked heavenwards and sighed.

Pooh! cheeks like a postage stamp; just imagine it. But to make such a comparison was just like my friend Johnson, and he was awfully keen on Bahamas at that time.

"Promise, oh, promise to take me to her, and I will play this afternoon."

Johnson promised.

"You wicked old chap," I said, as we left Silvester, who had gone to dress for the forthcoming match. "What do you mean by it all? You have no sister; and has the fishmonger a daughter?" I asked wonderingly.

"No, no, no," replied he; "but we cannot have this estimable young fellow falling in love with any promiscuous girl whom he sees, and I have a scheme. I will tell you more anon."

The match was played, and we were

hopelessly beaten. Silvester, unlike the usual school hero, failed to prove himself a dark horse, or to win the match for us when defeat seemed certain. Neither did he sky any ball out of gravity's force, nor have any since been mistaken for meteors.

Johnson, mindful of his promise, arranged that the following Wednesday our poetic friend and myself should have tea at Johnson's home, which was only two miles from Barratry's. "To see his sister," he said. I still failed to see what was his game.

When the day arrived, we journeyed there, I still in ignorance of Johnson's intentions. On our arrival we were ushered into a room facing the lawn, and, mystery of mysteries, some fair, girlish figure in pink rose to meet us.

"Miranda, allow me—Mr. Silvester Slade; the other you know," smilingly spoke Johnson.

As the form approached, I recognized Tom, Johnson's younger brother, who muttered, "Don't look so flabbergasted, fathead; you'll give the game away."

As we talked on various boyish topics, Miranda, Tom—you know who I mean—busied himself, herself, with a ball of cotton and a peculiar long needle. Silvester was of course intensely interested. "I am just making some Solomon's knots on the borders of this crocheting, but I will finish now," said Miranda. You know, that was jolly cute of Tom. He did not know what a Solomon's knot was. He told me afterwards that he had heard his mother mention them.

But never had I seen such a transformation. Tom, with whom I had got into many a scrape, looked positively angelic. The guise was complete. Golden hair, a waist actually, a sweet frock; he looked a charming girl of seventeen.

"Will you excuse us a moment, Silvester?" said Johnson. "I should like to show my philatelic friend my new Bahamas; they will not interest you, I know," and, leaving the room, he beckoned me to follow. Outside, Johnson gave vent to a smothered laugh. The situation began to dawn on me now. "Come along," he said; "we can see and hear the fun from the lawn; I have purposely left the French windows ajar." And there we stealthily crept.

"My brother," we heard Tom say, "is

such an enthusiastic stamp collector. You do not collect, I presume?"

"No," replied Silvester.

"Oh, you should!" spoke Tom. "Stamps are so interesting and so pretty. Do let me show you my collection." And Tom walked daintily across the room to a cabinet, from which she, he, withdrew an "Imperial" Album. "Bring two chairs to the table, will you, Mr. Slade?" Opening the album, Tom pointed out items of interest to Silvester, and drawing closer to him positively ogled him, until the emotional youth became visibly affected, rolled his eyes, and clasped his hands together as though he would like to worship this mass of mischief by his side. "And, oh! look here!" said Tom, "these Columbus stamps of the United States are so interesting. The one cent stamp portrays Columbus in sight of land, while the two cent shows the landing of Columbus, an event which occurred only one day after the former. In the one cent stamp he is depicted as being clean shaven; in the two cent stamp he is shown with a beard.

"Isn't it ridiculous, Mr. Slade? A beard could not grow in one day, could it, even in America?" And Tom looked out of the corner of his merry little eyes at Silvester. Poor Silvester! I am sure he longed to kiss that wicked young scamp dressed as a girl.

"Stamp collecting is really delightful," he said. "I must collect; and will you help me, Miss Johnson?"

"With pleasure," Tom rejoined. "And will you call me To—Miranda?"

"Oh, I should feel honoured to be allowed to," he said. And Silvester held Tom's hand and kissed it in ecstasy.

This was too much for Tom, and a prolonged boyish laugh escaped him. Leaning back in his chair, he overbalanced, and fell to the ground. His golden wig fell off; the blouse he wore

would not stand this extra strain, and came undone, showing a boy's white shirt; and his skirt falling over his head, showed a pair of striped grey trousers. Silvester now recognized how he had been hoaxed.

"Cruel!" he muttered tearfully "Cruel!"

Tom struggled to his feet.

"Forgive my brother and me for this, Silvester. Oh, do!" said he earnestly, genuinely sorry now he saw how hurt Slade was, towards whom he advanced with open hand. "Forgive us, will you?"

Silvester was indeed a splendid fellow. He accepted the proffered hand, and expressed his forgiveness.

Johnson, asking me to wait outside, entered the room; and when later we sat down to tea, we were as happy as sand-boys, and no one would have guessed the incident of the afternoon.

It was never mentioned again, but a few mornings later Silvester approached Johnson with an album under his arm, and an envelope containing stamps.

"Johnson," he said, "your hoax was doubtless the result of a mad impulse, but you have thereby hammered a little sense into me. If I can think myself in love with a boy in girl's clothing, it shows the folly of my imagined fondness for the fair sex. I have learnt to think, though, that stamp collecting must be interesting, and I wish to commence. Will you help me?"

Johnson only too readily acquiesced; he liked every one to become a philatelist, and many collections at Barratry's had become considerably enriched through his knowledge, and his munificent gifts of duplicates.

Johnson, Slade, and myself are all now serious collectors, and possibly—I say possibly—you may see our exhibits at the 1906 Exhibition.

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL BARGAINS

FOR G. S. W. READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear.

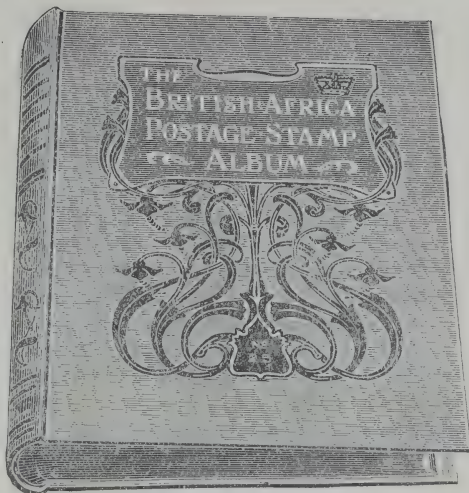
OUR SEVENTH SPECIAL OFFER

During the war in South Africa we published a special Album for the *British Africa Postage Stamps*, as described below, and having only a few left on hand we are willing to clear them out at about cost price in order to have room for new editions.

BRITISH AFRICA
Postage Stamp Album

The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page.

In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come.



IN TWO QUALITIES.

220 Pages. Size, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

No. 25.—On extra stout paper, strongly bound in art vellum, gilt lettered and artistically designed cover, coloured edges. **Special Price. Post-free in Great Britain, 6/6.** (Published Price, 10/7.)

No. 26.—On heavy, highly glazed plate paper, half-bound in morocco, art vellum sides, raised band and full gilt back, gilt lettering and edges, supplied in strong box. **Special Price. Post-free in Great Britain, 12/6.** (Published Price, 21/8.)

STANLEY GIBBONS, LIMITED,
391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.

ON Wednesday, October 4th, 1905, a meeting of the directors of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., was held at the head office of the company, 391, Strand, London, W.C. There were present Mr. Charles J. Phillips in the chair, Messrs. W. H. Phillips, E. Hamilton-Smith, S. E. Gwyer, D. W. Glenning, and W. P. Barnsdall.

After consideration of the report of the result of the half-year ending June 30th, 1905, it was resolved to declare an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. free of income tax.

The chairman reported very favourable prospects from both the home and the American businesses.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Crete.—A correspondent sends us the following newspaper cutting:—

"Funds are running low with the Revolutionary Government of Crete, so it has resorted to the expedient sometimes indulged in by the smaller South American States, and has issued from a little village near Canea a set of half a dozen new postage stamps. Philatelists, their rivalry to secure new issues taking precedence of other considerations, will no doubt eagerly snap up these stamps, which are double the size of those in ordinary use in the island. Until the revolutionaries can gauge the extent of the demand amongst collectors, they have contented themselves with the issue of something slightly over 5000 stamps."

Following this, our publishers send us samples of the actual stamps, which we illustrate. They are for the present modestly confined to five values—just by way of experiment. If silly boys and stamp flats will buy them, no doubt they will be produced in great variety and profusion.

Ewen's Weekly Stamp News publishes the following decree authorising the issue:—

"30.8.05.

"The Revolutionary Assembly of Cretans decrees:

"Art. I.—A postal service shall be instituted in Crete in the name of the Revolutionary Assembly.

"Art. II.—Postage stamps shall be issued in the quantity of 5400 of each value, 5, 10, 20, 50 l., 1 dr. gold.

"Art. III.—The postage stamp shall be of the following design:—In the upper part it shall have the words 'Prosrine Kubernieis Kretes—Tax. Uper.' [The latter two words are short for 'Taxudromike Huperesia,' and the whole signifies 'Provisional Government of Crete—Postal Service.'] In the lower part the value of the stamp. In the middle it will have as emblem the victory of Paionius with 'Annexion' below. [Our contemporary translates the word 'Annexion' or Annexation, but in the illustration the word is clearly the ancient Greek 'enōsis'—modern Greek is *henotes*—which means 'union.'—Ed., *E.W.S.N.*]

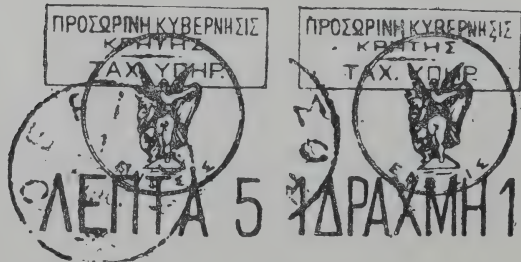
"The design of the higher values will be square in form, its dimensions in width and height being twenty-nine millimètres.

"The colours of each class of stamps will be the following:—

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------------|-------|
| 1st class | 5 lepta, | green, | with emblem | red |
| 2nd | " 10 " | red | " | green |
| 3rd | " 20 " | red | " | blue |
| 4th | " 50 " | violet | " | green |
| 5th | " 1 dr. | blue | " | red |

"The presidency is entrusted with the present decree.

"Secretary: (Signed) C. MANOS. President: (Signed) G. PAPPAJAUNAKI."



The stamps are imperforate and ungummed.

Imperf.

| | |
|--------|-------------------|
| 5 l., | green and red. |
| 10 l., | red and green. |
| 20 l., | red and blue. |
| 50 l., | violet and green. |
| 1 dr., | blue and red. |

Russia.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is informed by Mr. F. Bernstein that the quantities of the Orphans' issue which were sold are as follows:—

| | |
|----------|---------|
| 3/6 kop. | 248,000 |
| 5/8 " | 178,000 |
| 7/10 " | 302,000 |
| 10/13 " | 161,000 |
| | 889,000 |

"About 50,000 only still remain on hand, and more are to be printed. The amount realized for the Orphans' Fund, at $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per stamp, is thus about £2780, less the cost of printing the stamps, which would probably be quite £300, unless this was borne by the General Post Office, as would be not improvable, seeing the stamps were available for postage at the bulk of the revenue from stamp collectors were retained by the Post Office.

"We understand that 2000 strips of eight of each value were overprinted with the word 'Obrazets', Russian characters, one letter on each stamp. The word is equivalent to the English 'Specimen.' Half of the strips were stuck on advertising cards distributed to post offices and stamp vendors, many of which have now been returned to headquarters. For these and the remainders of these strips, offers are not invited; nothing under 6d. per strip is likely to be accepted."

Transvaal.—The postal authorities here evidently have found the current bicoloured series of postage stamps too expensive, as we have received both the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. printed all in green and the 1d. all printed in carmine, instead of having the head printed in black and the framework in another colour. For a specimen of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. we are indebted to a reader of *G.S.W.* Mrs. E. Burton-Phillipson.

How far this economical turn in printing the stamps may affect the other values remains to be seen. Possibly all the low values will be reduced to single colour retaining the bicolours only for 2s. 6d. and upwards.

The stamps are on the multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
1d., carmine.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



WILLIAM AND BETTY ARRIVED

CHAPTER XXIII

The untoward fate of the fête of Prince Albrandi

IT was an event long looked forward to in Naples, this fête of Prince Albrandi.

His magnificent establishment, his love of luxury, and his illustrious family, allied to the Carracciolo, the Carafa, the Sangro, and all the nobility of the two Sicilies, all caused him to be looked up to as a great personality, and invitations to his receptions were universally sought after. He had, as can well be imagined, many friends and many backbiters, who all, but particularly the latter, rejoiced in his magnificence and feasted continually at his table. Beyond the pleasures which he lavished upon them, this often gave them the opportunity of effecting a good stroke of business.

The Prince, in fact, was an omnivorous collector, but not a collector for the sake of the inward joy of obtaining a long-desired specimen by some happy chance, or after weary and patient research. He collected for the purpose of accumulating, that he might have the largest possible display of brilliant and costly things, arranged with more ostentation than taste, more pride than pleasure. Thus the principal rooms in his palace were given up to a permanent exhibition of his numerous acquisitions—pictures, sculpture, antiques, Chinese ornaments, Oriental rinkets, furniture, minerals, shell-work, coins, and, finally, stamps.

But these things, lavishly bought, piled up in profusion and often of doubtful authenticity, showed only a desire to dazzle, to the entire exclusion of either art or science.

In his house there was but one complete and perfect collection—that of the parasites and bloodsuckers who assisted him to squander his fortune royally. So they had no hesitation in spreading, on the quiet, the most

unflattering rumours about him, and the talk of the day was to the effect that he had only organised this fête, which was to surpass all the others by its splendour, to impose upon people concerning his financial position and restore his shaken credit.

However that might be everyone expected a great deal of pleasure from it, and none of the fortunate invited ones felt inclined to refuse the invitation.

When the evening arrived the Pausilippe Palace offered indeed a veritable scene of fairyland. A luminous vault extended from the entrance right over the gardens; and those who have beheld illuminations arranged by Neapolitans will admit them to be masters in the art of this kind of decoration. The smallest shrubs were full of many-coloured lamps, and the lawns and flower-beds had disappeared under a glittering carpet. Brilliant electric lights thrown on to the fountains gave an appearance as of enormous jets of pearls and diamonds. The outlines of the palace, the curbs of the basins, the edges of the walks, and the parapets of the terrace were garlanded with lights, which drove night far into the distance and delighted the eye.

As the evening was enchantingly calm, only just freshened by the lightest breeze, the lights burned brightly and shone from one end of the domain to the other.

A double line of powdered footmen, in the green and gold livery of the Prince, stood on the steps; and in the vast entrance hall, filled with rare plants and glowing lustres, stood the Prince himself, receiving his innumerable guests with a smile of welcome.

William and Betty arrived just before eleven.

"Oh, Prince, we are not living in one evening, but in the thousand and one nights!" the young American exclaimed.

"That is very kind of you," said Albrandi, bowing. Then, turning to Betty, he said—

"As you are newly arrived in Naples, Miss Scott, and do not know anyone, I shall keep you near me,

and ask you to let me do the honours of my house myself. And you, too, Mr. Keniss."

The two young people, delighted at so much kindness, bowed their acquiescence, and ranged themselves behind the Prince to allow the newcomers to approach. A multitude of people presented themselves—princes, dukes, marquises, knights, even canons and bishops. All the titles in the world passed by, crushed and mixed together in the utmost confusion. Diplomats arrived in full uniform, with ribbons, stars, and orders of every description, gold and colour flashing in the light; and ladies in low dresses, covered with precious stones.

The chief of police arrived in his turn, and, seeing William, went up to him with outstretched hand, saying, when the first greetings had passed—

"Good news, monsieur. Your thief is just about to be arrested. His hiding-place has been discovered, all arrangements made, and it was only by the merest chance that he escaped being taken this afternoon."

As Signor Petto was speaking they heard the announcement—

"The Consul-General of Russia and the Count Orsikoff!"

These two personages, one as bedizened as the other with stars and decorations, advanced, and the Consul said—

"My dear Prince, will you allow me to present one of my compatriots, recently arrived from France, and most highly recommended by the ambassador of his Majesty the Czar in Paris! I have taken the liberty of bringing him into the midst of all these wonders—"

"A happy inspiration!" cried Albrandi. "The Count is most welcome."

On leaving the Prince the Count and the Consul passed close by William and Betty. With one impulse the two Americans, who had been looking in the other direction, turned round, and both received a shock. Count Orsikoff, meeting them thus suddenly face to face, could not suppress an expression of horror, grew pallid, and turned quickly away.

"What an extraordinary thing!" murmured William in Betty's ear.

"Nothing could be more extraordinary, and I should be positive that I recognised our thief by those eyes if I had not known that they were just about taking him prisoner."

"We are possessed," concluded William, laughing, "and see that scoundrel everywhere. We must not give way to such weakness."

The rooms were now well filled, and as there were no more guests arriving the Prince offered his arm to Betty and led her through the palace to the terrace overlooking the Bay, where there was a glorious view. Facing them in the distance twinkled the lights of all the towns scattered along the shore—Portici, Resina, Torre del Greco, Torre Annunziata, Castellamara, Vicameta, Sorrento, Mana. It was like another burning girdle of light, continuing the illuminations of the park and encircling all the Bay, above which glowed, like a colossal ruby, the fire of Vesuvius.

At a given signal electric lights were suddenly thrown on the sombre waves below the terrace, where boats were seen passing to and fro, filled with musicians, from whom arose strains of incomparable sweetness.

On every side arose exclamations of delight, and the guests looked on and listened in an ecstasy, which lasted until the host invited them to come and see his

various collections, already known to nearly everyone, but which he delighted to show again on the slightest excuse.

They passed through a regular suite of galleries bordered with glass cases, wherein the most diverse objects were arranged, till they reached at length a small study, the walls of which were completely covered with postage stamps, arranged in arabesque and many fanciful designs.

"Behold the temple!" said the Prince to Betty.

Then he opened a costly piece of furniture, standing in the middle of the room, and took out a large album composed of several hundred loose leaves of smooth parchment. It was the Stamp Collection.

"This collection," said the Prince in a loud voice that could be heard by all—for he deigned to act the showman himself—"this collection is worth about a million and a half. It has cost me at least that. You see," continued he, showing some of the pages, "what a number of stamps there are. I have some of the utmost rarity, with watermarks scarcely visible, reversed or absent altogether; in fact, perfect unique specimens. But this is the pearl of my collection!"

And he took out one sheet from the number, whereon was fixed, alone, resplendent, the golden Brahmapootra stamp, at which William and Betty gazed with an eagerness which we can well understand, and not without a sharp pang of envy.

"But two copies of this stamp exist," continued the Prince—"this one and one other, which is the property of Mr. Keniss here. But mine, if I may say so without discourtesy to my amiable compeer, is far the more valuable, since it has the undeniable superiority of being unused. Moreover, yesterday I was offered two hundred thousand francs for it."

At the mention of this sum a murmur passed through the crowd, and many envious eyes were turned in the direction of the little square of paper which represented it.

The guests having admired the collection with more politeness than sincerity, the Prince left the study followed by his little group of courtiers, saying—

"Now you must see this matchless specimen in such proportions as will allow you to appreciate it."

And there, at the end of a long gallery, was stretched a sheet, on which was thrown by a magic lantern a photograph of the famous stamp, enlarged a hundredfold.

"How very interesting!" said William. "I have never seen anything like that. How do you manage it?"

"Oh, nothing could be more simple," returned the Prince; but you must only use photographs or reprints or else risk the loss of the original, which is not often done. A copy of the stamp, then, is soaked in hot water for two hours; then a pane of glass, just warmed, is covered with a thin layer of turpentine; on this the stamp is carefully stuck, that it may adhere all over, and left to cool for two hours longer. After that time it is rubbed carefully with a wet finger, so as to rub off all the paper and leave on the turpentine only the thin film composing the picture. Then it is covered all over with a coating of transparent varnish, and there you have a positive, ready for use in the first available lantern."

"It is most ingenious," said William.

"Now I am going to show you the Brahmapootra stamp a third time and on a still larger scale," said the Prince.

(To be continued.)

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Notes from New York

NEW YORK CITY, *October, 1905*

THE editor has asked me to write some chatty and reasonable things about the state of the stamp business, and what is being done and said among collectors here. Unfortunately we are now at the end of the dull season, and business is only just starting up for the fall and winter.

Because of our long hot summers, when every one gives town for as extended a period as possible, and we think of postage stamps only as "sticky things" to be let alone, the dealers have every year to face several months of dull business. It is a good time to get stock in shape and new stock books made up, but has usually a depressing effect on the bank account. At the time has now come when collectors are drifting back to town, and they are never here long before they drop in at their favourite shops to talk over prospects and sample a few of the good things that have been gotten ready for them. It will take a few weeks yet for them to get settled down and resume their old-time interest and active buying. Meanwhile, though we cannot report any startling business activity, we find conditions good and prospects very encouraging. The country at large is highly prosperous, and crops are unusually large, and many lines of business more active than they have been for years. Every one says that "money is easy," and everywhere we hear anticipations of an active and prosperous season. Stamp dealers have as much reason as any one else to expect an increase of business. Collectors could find satisfaction in these prospects, for any improvement in trade always means a gain in the market value and stability of the stamps held by collectors. They may not have any intention of selling, but it is always cheering to know that their investments are improving in value. Nothing is more certain than that good stamps always do grow more valuable as time goes on.

An Abundance of Auctions

The indications are that we shall have an abundance of auctions this winter. The various firms that hold stamp auctions report that considerable quantities of stamps are already in hand and arranged for sale, and more are in sight. There can be no doubt that the selling of stamps at auction is as firmly established as any other form of business. If one has an extremely fine collection to sell he can probably get as much as or more outright from a dealer than he would realize at auction, but for small lots and collections of secondary importance, the auction seems to be the ideal means of sale. Dealers are not usually anxious to purchase, but the choice things, but there seems to be a never-failing supply of buyers at auction.

An Amusing Story

A fellow-collector recently told me a rather amusing story. One day an elderly lady of his acquaintance called on him and said, "Mr. D—, I hear you are interested in collecting stamps, and I want to show you some which I recently bought. I paid the man ten pounds for them, and I think I have a great bargain, for many of them are in the catalogue right next to stamps priced from ten to twenty pounds." The lot was worth about 25.

Unpaid Letter Stamps

I wonder when the makers of catalogues will cease using the term "Unpaid Letter Stamps" and adopt

the more correct phrase "Postage Due Stamps." It is not the *letter* that is unpaid, but the *postage*. If we wish to retain the word "unpaid," then we should say, "Unpaid Postage Stamps," but that has an awkward sound. I do not think there is any universal rule governing the treatment of letters on which the postage is not prepaid, either wholly or in part, but in the United States the Post Office Department rules that a letter that has no stamps affixed shall be held at the office where it is posted, and the addressee notified to that effect, the letter being forwarded on receipt of the amount due for postage. On the other hand, a letter on which the postage is partly prepaid is forwarded with Postage Due stamps to the amount of the deficit attached to it. You see the point? Incidentally it may be remarked that when they are affixed at the office of posting these Due stamps help to carry the letter. Those who say they are not postage stamps will kindly note this fact and ponder on it.

Society Programmes

Thus far our local philatelic organizations have not announced their programmes of entertainments for the season. No doubt they will all soon arrange something of the kind for the benefit of their members. It has become a difficult matter to find interesting and new features for such programmes. There is a great lack of material for philatelic papers. So many countries have been so thoroughly studied and written up that there seem to be no new worlds to conquer. The collector who is fortunate enough to discover some new item of interest which he can place before his fellow-collectors is to be congratulated. But while we are waiting for new knowledge, we must not fail to be thankful for that we already have. Collectors of to-day have at their command a great amount of information which was lacking ten or fifteen years ago.

Our Catalogues

Our catalogues now are really condensed libraries. Some of the history and the details of the discoveries are lacking, but the details are there, tabulated and arranged in the most concise and serviceable form. Very few people realize what a mine of information lies between the covers of a catalogue, and what an amount of research and labour it represents, both in the getting together of the facts and in their arrangement.

Popularity of U.S. Stamps

The signs of the times point to a reversal of the popularity of United States stamps with collectors. A few of the wise ones have realized for years how scarce some varieties are, and how very difficult it is to obtain choice copies in many issues. Collectors at large have at last awakened to these facts, and now they are beginning an anxious search for the things which they find they are lacking. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons recently purchased one of the largest specialized collections of United States stamps ever gotten together, and the heavy sales which have already been made from it show plainly that collectors appreciate such an opportunity to fill up their albums. The collection is so extensive, and is laid out on such extended lines, that there is enough to supply many collectors, and it will be some time before it begins to show thin spots.

J. N. LUFF.

Our Letter from Greece

THERE are many novelties for philatelists in regard to the stamps of Greece and those which the Revolutionary Government of Crete has just issued.

Firstly, a royal decree has just been published in Greece with reference to the next Olympic Games, which are to be held in Athens next year. According to this decree, a special issue of commemorative stamps will appear, and they will be in use during 1906. The issue will consist of fourteen values, viz. 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, and 50 lepta; 1, 2, 3, and 5 drachmas. These stamps, which are to be engraved and printed by Messrs. J. P. Segg and Co., 289-291, Regent Street, London, W., will bear copies of ancient works of Greek art, as follows:—

1 and 2 lepta. Apollo throwing the discus, or quoit. Copy of a coin of 4 drachmas from the island of Cos, in the Archipelago, dating from the fifth century B.C. A tripod is near Apollo.

3 and 5 lepta. A jumper. Taken from a quoit as used of old.

10 lepta. Victory seated on an amphora, or wine-jar, used in the games, and holding a caduceus, or Mercury's wand. Copied from a coin of the ancient town of Terrina.

20 and 50 lepta. Hercules carrying heaven on his shoulders and Atlas bringing him the golden apples of the Hesperides. Copied from a piece of ancient pottery.

25 lepta. Hercules and Antæus wrestling. Copied from a piece of ancient pottery.

30 lepta. Wrestlers. Taken from a bas-relief in marble.

40 lepta. The Genius of the Games, represented as an adult with wings, and holding a cock. Copied from a mirror of the fine epoch of Grecian art.

1, 2, and 3 drachmas. Runners. Copied from a piece of pottery.

5 drachmas. Three torch-bearers; the Goddess of Victory and priests celebrating the sacrifices of the Games. Copy of a piece of pottery of the fine days of Grecian art.

As to the island of Crete, the Revolutionary Government established at Thérissou, a small village near the chief town of the island, Canée, or Hania in Greece has had for some time the intention to establish a postal service in the district not occupied by the troops, the four Powers. It ordered a certain quantity of stamps bearing in the upper part the title of the Revolutionary Government, then the geographical map of Crete, and at the bottom the value of every stamp. A decree of 30 August, 1905, which fixed the postal service, announced the appearance of these stamps; but in place of the map of Crete there is a round seal representing Victory with wings, and below is the inscription ΕΝΩΣΙΣ, which means "Union." The stamps are five values, and Victory appears in a different colour on every stamp.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 5 lepta, green, Victory in red. | |
| 10 " red " green. | |
| 20 " " " blue. | |
| 50 " violet " green. | |
| 1 drachma, blue " red. | |

By the same decree the number of stamps issued, given as being 5400 stamps of every value. The stamps are square in form, and 29 mm. by 30 mm., and there are many types in the letters of the inscription, and in the "Victory" upon them. Besides this special issue, certain Cretan stamps of the issues still in circulation in the other island have been met with bearing crown in a coloured surcharge. The stamps issued by the Revolutionary Government of Crete bear the following words in the upper part:—

ΠΡΟΣΩΡΙΝΗ ΚΤΕΡΡΝΗΣΙΣ
ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

TAX. ΤΙΜΗ.

This in English is: "The Provisional Government of Crete. Postal Service."

PELIA.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Dundee Philatelic Society

President: Mr. F. David.

Secretary and Exchange Secretary: G. H. Whitaker.

Treasurer: Mr. P. McIntosh.

9, BELLEFIELD AVENUE, DUNDEE,
September 30th.

DEAR SIR,—Many thanks for your notice in *Weekly*, several replies resulting. Am pleased to say the Dundee and District Philatelic Society is now formed, and although we have just under twenty members at start, hope to number at least fifty at finish of season. Think publicity of its existence will help to bring this about, and have already secured a brief notice in the local Press. Will send on programme as soon as arranged.—Yours sincerely,

G. H. WHITAKER, Secretary.

International Philatelic Union

Hon. President: Judge Philbrick, K.C.

Secretary: T. H. Hinton, 28, Cromford Road, East Putney, London, S.W.

Meetings: Essex Hall, Essex Street, London, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 5s.; Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

Programme for Season 1905-6

- Oct. 9. Monday.—7.30 p.m. Social Evening and Smoking Concert, Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street.
- Nov. 8. 7.30 p.m. Lantern Display at Essex Hall.
- Dec. 13. 8 p.m. Display: Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta, with Notes. Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.
- Jan. 10. 8 p.m. Display: India and Ceylon, with Notes. Mr. J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

- Feb. 14. 8 p.m. Display: Fiscals. Mr. W. Schwabacher.
- Mar. 14. 8 p.m. Display. Mr. J. C. Sidebotham.
- April 11. 8 p.m. Display with Notes: Japan Telegraphs and Fiscals. Mr. L. W. Fulcher.
- May 9. 7.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting and Display. Mr. H. L. Hayman.

Leeds Philatelic Society.

President: E. Egly, Arncliffe Road, West Park, Leeds.

Secretary: Charles W. Harding, 139, Belle Vue Road, Leeds.

Meetings: Leeds Institute, Cookridge Street, Leeds.

Annual Subscription: 5s.; Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

Syllabus, 1905-6

- Oct. 3. Philatelic Gathering.
- Oct. 17. Display of South African Stamps.
- Nov. 7. Display of British North American Stamps.
- Nov. 21. Display of Stamps of British Guiana from 1860, with Notes. By Mr. J. H. Thackrah.
- Dec. 5. Display of Used Ceylon Stamps, with Notes. By Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., of Rochdale.
- Dec. 19. Paper by Mr. E. Egly, "The Universal Postal Union: Its History and Progress."
- Jan. 9. Display of European Stamps.
- Jan. 23. Display of United States Stamps.
- Feb. 6. Paper by Mr. Fred J. Melville (President of the Junior Philatelic Society, London).
- Feb. 20. "The Bordeaux Issue of France, 1870. By Mr. F. A. Padgett.
- Mar. 6. Display of Used Indian Stamps, with Notes. By Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., of Rochdale.
- Mar. 20. Display of Seychelles Stamps, with Notes. By Mr. Charles W. Harding.

- April 3. Display of South Australian Stamps, with Notes. By Mr. H. Wade.
 April 24. Paper by Mr. W. D. Roebuck, F.L.S.
 May 1. Annual Meeting.
 The Meetings commence at 7.30 p.m., the Papers any) being taken at 8 p.m.

Leicester Philatelic Society

The first meeting of this Society will be held at the inn's Café, on Wednesday, 1 November, at 8 p.m., and any Leicester stamp collectors who may not have received a special invitation will be heartily welcomed.

Secretaries pro tem.:

J. H. GODDARD, 4, Church Avenue.
 J. G. BOULTON, 25, Castle Street.
 T. B. WIDDOWSON, 16, Stretton Road.

Liverpool Philatelic Society.

President: Herbert Woods.

Secretary: W. Halfpenny, 28, Dacey Street, Liverpool.

Meetings: Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. 7 p.m.

The second meeting of the session took place on Monday evening, 9 October, at the Society's headquarters, the Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. There was a capital attendance (some twenty-five members); and after the usual business had been transacted, including the election of eight new applicants for membership, a paper on the "Stamps of Cyprus" was read by Mr. A. S. Allender. The subject was handled in a very capable manner, the lecturer first giving a short summary of the history of the island, and then dealing fully with its postal issues, etc., upon which he brought forward many interesting points.

A fine show of the stamps of Cyprus and Norway was made by the members, and it called forth considerable admiration.

The usual votes of thanks were given, after which the exhibits were criticized and judged for the Society's Annual Competition, which is one of the most interesting features of the session.

Programme for 1905-6

- Oct. 25. Discussion, "How to increase the Membership." Opened by A. Moffatt. Display of British South Africa and Persia.
 Nov. 9. Paper on "Cyprus." A. S. Allender. Display of Cyprus and Norway.
 Dec. 23. Paper on "Dominica" (B.W.I.). J. G. Cuthbertson. Display of Dominica and Cuba.
 Jan. 6. Display of Roumania. W. Dornier Beckett, Pres. Manchester Philatelic Society.
 Feb. 20. Discussion, "Collecting as a Hobby." Opened by J. Hughes. Display of British Bechuanaland and Panama.
 Mar. 4. Paper on "Saxony." C. N. B. Crowther. Display of Saxony and Ceylon.
 Apr. 18. Discussion, "Collecting as an Investment." Opened by W. C. Taylor. Display of United States of America.
 May 8. Paper on "Canada." G. Burrow. Display of Canada and Sweden.
 June 22. Lantern Display, Minor Varieties. J. H. M. Savage.
 July 5. Paper on "Great Britain." J. J. Bernstein. Display of Great Britain.
 Aug. 19. Sale. Display of Seychelles and British Guiana.
 Sept. 5. Paper on "Sarawak." H. Woods. Display of Sarawak and Belgium.
 Oct. 19. Paper on "Some Old Post Office Regulations." A. Phelps. Display of St. Vincent and South Nigeria.
 Nov. 2. Discussion, "Specialism" (opened by C. S. Milner) v. "General" (opened by J. A. Gordon). Display for Special Prize.
 Dec. 23. Annual Meeting.
 Jan. 7. Display of King's Heads.

Scottish Philatelic Society

President: John Walker.

Secretary: R. W. Findlater, 30, Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.

Meetings: Edinburgh. Monthly: 8 p.m.

Annual Subscription: Ord. 5s.; Cor. 2s. 6d.

The annual general meeting of the above Society was held at 26, Frederick Street, Edinburgh, on Monday, 9 October, 1905, at 8 p.m.

Present: Messrs. J. Walker, Andrew Henderson, James Baxter, N. M. Berrie, R. Kerr, James Pursell, J. Humphries, F. Chalmers, J. P. Mackenzie, Alex. Miller, and R. W. Findlater.

The President took the chair. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 10 April, 1905, were read and approved. The Secretary gave a short report of the progress made by the Society during the past session, stating that a great improvement had been made in every branch of the Society's work.

The following office-bearers were elected for the session 1905-6:—President: Mr. J. Walker. Vice-President: Mr. Andrew Henderson. Committee: Messrs. N. M. Berrie, J. MacGregor, w.s., W. Morrison, and James Pursell; Hon. Sec. and Treasurer, R. W. Findlater.

It was arranged to hold the following meetings and displays during the session:—

- 1905
 Nov. 13. Grenada. By J. MacGregor, w.s.
 Dec. 11. Great Britain. By Mr. R. Kerr.
 1906
 Jan. 8. Australasia. By Mr. Baxter and Mr. W. Bonnar.
 Feb. 12. Scandinavia. By Mr. N. M. Berrie and Mr. J. Walker.
 Mar. 12. Paper. By Mr. T. A. M'Intyre.
 April 9. General Display.
 May 14. Social.

The Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

West Hartlepool Branch

On Wednesday, 11 October, 1905, a meeting was held at the residence of Mr. M. H. Horsley, Greenbank, West Hartlepool, to consider the formation of a local branch of the Junior Philatelic Society. Amongst those present were Messrs. M. H. Horsley (who occupied the chair), S. Horsley, Jas. Wharton, Geo. Sarginson, Thos. Thompson, E. J. Chilverton, H. T. James, M. Lamb, and C. B. Cooper.

Mr. M. H. Horsley carefully explained the objects of the meeting, stating that letters of apology had been received from Canon Cosgrave, B.D., Rev. W. W. Morrison, M.A., Geo. Pyman, jun., and Councillor J. E. Robson, Hartlepool, who all expressed their hearty wishes for the success of a local branch. The benefits of joining the Junior Philatelic Society were put forward, and it was resolved to form a local branch. Mr. M. H. Horsley was elected Local President; Canon Cosgrave, B.D., and O. K. Trechmann, Local Vice-Presidents; H. T. James, Local Hon. Secretary; Geo. Sarginson and Thos. Thompson to act with the above to form a Committee.

The President announced that he would be very pleased to give a paper on Colonial Stamps and show his collection of the same, and he had no doubt that Mr. Trechmann would also give a paper and an exhibition. Mr. James also stated that he would give a paper on stamp collecting, and, in conjunction with the President, an exhibition of British stamps. It was decided to hold meetings at regular intervals. Stamp collectors residing in or near West Hartlepool are invited to send for particulars of membership in the Junior Philatelic Society. Address the Local Hon. Secretary, care of Mr. M. H. Horsley, J.P., Greenbank, West Hartlepool.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

J. E. N. (Huddersfield).—Paid Ship Letter stamps or postmarks have never been accorded catalogue rank. They are interesting, yet can hardly be classed as stamps.

H. A. S. (Oxford).—Yes. In your place we should certainly have no hesitation in putting fiscally used British South Africa £5 and £10 in our collection. Even if we had more money than we knew what to do with, we should scarcely be tempted to pay for copies of these high values with their very remote relation to postal requirements, and should probably be still content with fiscally used copies as samples.

D. A. B. (Manchester).—As *G. S. W.* is for beginners we do not notice or discuss minor varieties, but we have forwarded your interesting note to Major Evans, Editor of the *Monthly Journal*.

R. F. (Eastleigh).—The China stamp surcharged "B.R.A." (British Railway Administration) is not a postage stamp. We can, therefore, say nothing as to its value.

Goldings (Hatfield).—We have heard "philately" pronounced "file-a-tely," as though it had something to do with the manufacture of *files*. The accepted pronunciations are—phil-á-tely, phil-á-tel-ist, phil-á-tel-ic.

O. J. P. (Hammersmith).—*G. S. W.*, being devoted to the interests of beginners, does not chronicle or discuss specialist varieties, such as broken letters, but we have posted your letter on to our confrère, Major Evans, Editor of the *Monthly Journal*. But we may say that even as specialists, in our Jekyll-and-Hyde existence, we let broken letters slide; they are not genuine varieties, and if they were all chronicled Gibbons' Catalogue would run into somewhere about fifty volumes.

Derby and A. P. G.—See replies above to D. A. B. and O. J. P.

R. A. D.—Inverted watermarks are of no value, and we do not know of even a specialist who pays attention to them. No, there is no charge for the valuable information, nor for any replies under the head of "Answers to Correspondents." All we ask in return is that you collar the next chap you meet and get him to subscribe to *G. S. W.*

H. T. H. (Hitchin).—We do not insert notices in Exchange Clubs, and do not remember inserting notice of one at Lincoln.

J. C. M. (London).—We do not know of any 2 on half of one penny, red, British Honduras used postally. It would not be quoted in Gibbons unless it was officially issued. You had better write the firm direct if you have any conclusive evidence of issue for offer. 2 c. on rd., rose, of 1888, is well known, but on half of one penny is a rather suspicious item.

A. H. (Dublin).—Your descriptions of the stamps you inquire about are not sufficient for identification. For instance "1874. New South Wales, perf. 6d." This would come under Gibbons' Catalogue classification 1871-83, under which head there are several varieties of the 6d. in colour and perforation. You had better ask a local stamp collector. As a matter of fact, we do not undertake the valuation of stamps, as you will see by the notice inserted nearly every week under the head of "Editorial Notes."

F. A. B. (Oxford).—We will put your letter in our pocket, and bring up the question when next we come on the firm named.

W. E. O. (Broughty Ferry).—A Great Britain star postmarked in South Africa may be interesting as a souvenir, but it has no philatelic value.

W. P. D. (Dartmouth).—The Great Britain King Head 5s., which fetched £21, was an Official, i.e. surcharged I.R. OFFICIAL.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

OCTOBER, 1905

26 & 27. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, London. 5 p.m.

27. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—Chili from 1897, R. Albrecht.

31. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER, 1905

1. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

2 & 3. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

3. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Bahamas and Bermuda, opened by J. H. Abbott.

4. Junior Philatelic Society: Auction Sale; 5.30 p.m. Display—Great Britain; J. S. Higgins, jun.; 8 p.m. Two diplomas will be awarded for the best collections of Great Britain submitted to the Examining Committee by members, (a) over twenty-one years of age; (b) under twenty-one.

6. Liverpool Philatelic Society: W. D. Beckton. Display—Roumania.

7. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—British North America. 7 & 8. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London, W.C. 4.30 p.m.

8. International Philatelic Union: Lantern Display.

9 & 10. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.

10. London Philatelic Society: Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg. Paper entitled "Philatelic Researches in Australia" illustrated with impressions from dies and plates, and pulls from perforating and rouletting machines.

Manchester Philatelic Society: Display of U.S.A., with notes by W. W. Munn.

14 & 15. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

15. Enterprise Philatelic Society: General Display by Members. British Colonial King's Heads. Display with Notes—Barbados. E. Heginbottom, B.A., with Display of the Society's Collection of Forgeries, Reprints, and Bogus Issues, with Notes by the Hon. Counterfeit Detector. General Sale and Exchange.

16 & 17. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

17. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Dominica and Jamaica, opened by J. S. Gee.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 19
Whole No. 44

4 NOVEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL
Baden



THE Grand Duchy of Baden consists of an insignificant bit of Germany in the south-west corner of the empire near Wurtemberg, but there was a time in the early part of the nineteenth century when it played the part of a not unimportant pawn on the European chessboard. Indeed, in the war between Prussia and Austria, little Baden had the temerity to

range itself with the enemies of Prussia. And when the tide of battle turned against its chosen friends it had to pay the penalty of a burdensome war indemnity. It had to remodel its army on Prussian lines and join the North German Federation. In the Franco-German War its troops fought on the German side, and it became in due time a part of the new German Empire.

Its Philatelic History

In tracing its philatelic history Mr. Westoby, in his *Adhesive Postage Stamps of Europe*, says:—

The postal administration of the Grand Duchy of Baden was formerly in the hands of the House of Thurn and Taxis; but the wars of the French Revolution, followed by those of the first Empire, so dislocated the service that Baden, in common with some of the other German States, withdrew from the Thurn and Taxis monopoly and established an independent postal administration. Since December 31st, 1871, the separate administration of Baden has ceased to exist, and the Post Office is now under the control of the general postal administration of the German Empire.

1851. The first issue consisted of four values printed in black on coloured papers. The design was made up of a large central numeral of value enclosed in a circle. In an outer frame at the top was the word **BADEN** in German capitals; at the foot, **FREIMARKE**; on the left, **DEUTSCH: OESTR: POSTVEREIN** ("German-Austrian Postal Union"); and on the right, **VERTRAG V. 6 APRIL, 1850** ("Convention of 6 April, 1850"); all in very small German type. The stamps were imperforate. Unused copies are very scarce.



| Imperforate. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|----------------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 kr., black on buff paper . . . | 15 | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 kr., " yellow paper . . . | 60 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 kr., " green paper . . . | — | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 9 kr., " lilac-rose paper . . . | — | 0 | 0 | 2 |

1854-8. Three values. Same design, but colours changed. The 1 kr. printed on white paper instead of on buff, the 3 kr. on green paper instead of yellow, and the 6 kr. on orange paper instead of green. Imperforate.

| Imperforate. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|----------------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 kr. black on white paper . . . | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 3 " " green paper . . . | 25 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 " " orange paper . . . | 50 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

1860-3. Four values. Design changed to the Arms of the Duchy enclosed in a square frame, with **BADEN** in bold ordinary type on the top, value at the foot, **FREIMARKE** on the left, and **POSTVEREIN** on the right. All were printed in colour on white paper, and were perforated.



| Perforated. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|---------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 kr. black . . . | 10 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 3 kr. blue . . . | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 6 kr., orange . . . | 9 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 6 kr., blue . . . | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 9 kr., rose . . . | 7 | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| 9 kr., brown . . . | 6 | 0 | 1 | 6 |

1862-4. Six values, two higher value 18 kr. and 30 kr., being added. Design as before, but with the shaded background of the Arms removed, thus throwing the Arms more clearly on a white background. Perforated.



| Perforated. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|----------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 kr., black . . . | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 3 kr., rose . . . | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 6 kr., blue . . . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| 9 kr., brown . . . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| 18 kr., green . . . | 25 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 30 kr., orange . . . | 0 | 9 | 15 | 0 |

1868. Three values. Design as before slightly modified, the word **KREUZER** at the bottom label being contracted to **K**. A 7 kr. was introduced as a new value and the 1 kr. and 3 kr. plates being worn new plates were made of the modified design. There being little demand for the 18 kr., that value was dropped, and the stock in hand of the 6 kr., 9 kr., and 30 kr. being sufficient, those values were not included in the modified design. Perforated.



| Perforated. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|--------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 kr., green . . . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 3 kr., rose . . . | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 7 kr., blue . . . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 6 |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

REMAINDERS AND ERRORS

By REV. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 278.)

errors

NO invention of man has ever reached absolute perfection. Postage stamps are in no way an exception to the rule. Mistakes will occur even in the best-regulated of worlds. In the stamp world we find mistakes in colour, printing, paper, watermark, and inscriptions of value. Many have been mistakes pure and simple. A few, we regret to add, have been manufactured by impoverished Governments for the sake of bringing grist to the exchequer mill. The reason is not hard to seek. Stamps with errors of whatever kind are, as a rule, much rarer than the same stamps without the error. Consequently they are much sought after by collectors. Is it then to be wondered that a Government of doubtful morals sets to work to supply the demand by creating errors for the special consumption of collectors? We proceed to enumerate the main classes of "Errors."

Errors in Colour

The wood-block triangular Cape of Good Hope One Penny, blue instead of red, and Four Pence, red instead of blue, are the best-known examples of this. Here is the story. In 1861 the stock of the Penny and Four Pence stamps became exhausted. The plates from which these stamps were printed were in England.

Cape Town firm was therefore commissioned to prepare a provisional issue for use until a fresh supply could be received from England. A steel die for each value was engraved, and sixty-four impressions of each of these engraved dies were taken and cemented on to a wood block to form the printing plate for each value. By some means one of the impressions of the 1d. stamp was placed among those of the 4d., and vice versa. After about 200 sheets of the Penny stamps were printed off in red it was discovered that a 4d. stamp in red figured amongst them. Some 380 sheets of the 4d. stamp also showed on each sheet a

Penny stamp in blue. These "errors" are very rare. The 1d., blue, is valued at about £50 used. The 4d., red, is worth about £40.

The 1872-5 issue of France furnishes us with another example. By an accident one of the moulds of the 15 centimes value got into the 10 centimes plate, and consequently the 15 centimes appeared in the colour of the 10 centimes, viz. bistre on rose. This "error" is catalogued at £15 unused.

A similar "error" is seen in the 5 bani of Roumania, 1876-8. This stamp, instead of being yellow-bistre in colour, appeared in the blue of the 10 bani. So great was the demand for this "error" by collectors that the Roumanian Government are said to have reprinted whole sheets of 5 bani containing this error of colour. The shade of the reprint was darker than that of the original error.

2. Inverted Centres

Stamps printed in two or more colours are very liable to "errors," for they have to be passed more than once through the printing press. If part of the design has already been printed and the sheet is then put in the wrong way, the result is that the remaining portion of the design appears upside down. This occurred in the case of the first 4 annas, India, showing the head of Queen Victoria in blue within a red frame. In its normal condition the stamp is catalogued at from 7s. 6d. to 25s. used. The "inverted centre" is extremely rare and would probably fetch at least £120.

Other examples of inverted centres are seen in the 12 cuartos issue of Spain, blue and rose, 1865, perf. and imperf. The normal imperforate stamp is catalogued at 9d., whereas the "error" figures at £7 used. The 25 mils. de escudo of the 1867 issue is also found with "inverted frame." Here again the error changes the market value from 1s. to £150. The 15 and 24 cents, United States issue of 1869, are found with

the centre inverted, while the 30 cents presents some specimens with the flags inverted. These errors, due to the carelessness of printers, have in all cases increased the value from a few shillings to a good many pounds.

3. Tête-bêche

When two stamps are printed upside down the one to the other, owing to the misplacement of impressions on the plate, the result is known as *tête-bêche*. Examples may be found in the 1862-3 issues of Roumania and in the 1870-3 issues of France.

4. Paper

Sometimes it happens that stamps are printed on paper watermarked with a number or value corresponding to the face value of the stamp. Printing stamps of one value on paper meant for another leads to "errors." New South Wales has many examples of them. Penny stamps appear on paper watermarked 2, 6d. stamps on paper watermarked 12, etc.

South Australian stamps of 1871 appear on paper watermarked for Victorian issues.

5. Perforations

Stamps that should have been issued perforated have at times appeared unperforated.

6. Inscriptions

"Errors" due to faulty inscriptions are fairly numerous. Every collector knows of the "Wakitipu" error, which appeared in the first printing of New Zealand stamps showing a view of Lake Wakitipu.

The first issue of Modena were all printed from the same die, and the value was afterwards inserted at the foot of the stamp with printer's type. This led to many curious errors. The letters in the word "cent" present all kinds of com-

binations—CNET 5, CCNT 5, CETN 5, etc. In 1902 the German 3 pfennige, brown, appeared with the inscription DFUTCH REICH instead of DEUTSCHES REICH.

7. Surcharges

There is quite a large crop of errors in surcharges. The greatest rarity of this kind is the 15 centesimi stamp of 1863, Italian issue, converted by surcharge into a 20 centesimi value in 1865, with the surcharge printed upside down. The stamp with the surcharge printed the right way up is among the commonest of stamps. Only one specimen of the error is known.

Another rare error is to be found among the Transvaal stamps of 1877. This was the time of the first British occupation and the stamps were surcharged "V.F. Transvaal." A few copies of the 1d., red on blue, were inscribed "Transvral" instead of "Transvaal."

In 1902 the 2½d., blue and ultramarine, of Malta were surcharged with the inscription "One Penny." Some of these surcharged stamps have been found with the error "One Pnney." The ordinary surcharged stamp used is catalogued at 3d. whereas the "error" is priced at 7s. 6d.

Such are a few of the "errors" that have been found. Their number is legion but want of space and the fear of wearying my readers forbid my dwelling any longer on these examples of the frailty of man. The reader who, like Dickens' immortal Oliver Twist, seeks for more has only to open his catalogue at the Orange River Colony issues and see their columns of "errors" caused by omissions: no stops, raised stops, thick letters, wide spacings, small figures, double surcharges, etc. "To err is human," says the old adage. I can only add that some printers of stamps seem to have inherited or imbibed a double portion of this human failing.

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., of the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamp in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, 8½ × 11½ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE GUM QUESTION

A FRAGMENT FOUND NEAR COLNEY HATCH

THE collection of postage stamps has now become so serious and so extended a pastime that it is time to call a halt to the craze for gum—original gum. Collectors who insist upon a mint specimen must look this question squarely in the face, and determine whether they will modify their standard or probably lack for ever completeness in their collections.

If an uncanceled North Borneo must have original gum, then a canceled (or, more probably, obliterated) specimen, which is usually found with full original gum, is defective, and must be discarded for one which has no gum. This, of course, can easily be circumvented by soaking the stamp: you, the owner, remove the gum, then why should not you, the owner, put on the gum to an unused specimen? If it is permissible to do the one thing, why is it not equally fair to do the other? Sauce for the goose, etc.

It has been my personal pleasure, within the past year, to bring to my way of thinking no less than three of my largest clients. The result is that they are getting more satisfaction out of their collections than ever before, and the spaces are gradually filling up with bright, clean, unused specimens without the original or any other kind of gum.

I should like to know which specimen is the most attractive to look at in the case of the early Roumanians, the perforated Wurtembergs and the numerous stamps that are found on thin to pelure paper, the gummed or the ungummed. I do not wish to be understood as maintaining that the gum is not a great addition to certain stamps which are menable to the crooked work of the washer," e.g. Bahamas, United States, Colombia, etc. Cases like these require

the evidence of original gum as proof of their uncanceled condition; but all stamps—oh, no! Many magnificent specimens have come under notice where the gum has cracked them so that they present nothing but a wrinkled mass; remove the gum and the specimen is bright, clean, and, above all, it lies flat before you to admire. It is my opinion that this gum question has been carried *ad absurdum*, and collectors will pay dearly for its practice. Fine old Australians are being turned down—"no gum"—only to be bought by some knowing one who sees in the future the return of collectors to their senses. These few lines have come to my pen from seeing a very beautiful collection of Australians, many of the choicest specimens being without gum—nice bright, clear copies, and a credit to any collection. The owner says, "I take specimens as I find them, gum or no gum; all I ask is that they be well perforated and in a perfect condition." He asked me, "How many £5 English do you find without a gum crack?" I was obliged to admit his argument.

This gum disease has even permeated the brain of the schoolboy. Not long ago a little chap—certainly not over twelve years old—came into our office and announced that he wanted "two shillings' worth of unused stamps, all perfectly centred, and all with *original gum*, please!" Ye gods! If at twelve, what will his arguments be at forty-five, when Sydney Views are worth more than diamonds, and *premières gravures* their weight in radium? No! Let us hark back to the good old days; let us pick out nice clean copies of uncanceled stamps, and let the gum question go to that delightful region where snow is not, and the apple trees blossom in December.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

WHAT STAMPS TO BUY

By ONE WHO KNOWS

What is Selling

I FOUND in my last stamp hunt in the Strand that the one predominant demand was for single CA's. It was all the same wherever I went—the pages that were cleared out were single CA's. "We can't keep them filled," said one dealer. "As fast as we put them out they go." In another establishment a fellow-dealer called to know if he could have certain single CA's. The dealer opened his book. "That's all I've got, sonny; and if you want 'em you had better be quick." "All right," said the caller, "I'll probably be in to-morrow morning." "Can't keep 'em for you," said the holder. "If you leave them you will have to take your chance." And so the game goes on. Everywhere single CA's are on the rise. So if you have any gaps to fill, don't delay. I had to pay 8d. for a 2½d. Gambia that I had overlooked.

How about Multiples?

Now that the chalk-surfaced paper is coming into use, collectors and dealers are asking, "How will multiples on ordinary paper stand? Will they rise like the superseded single CA's?" Personally, I think not, for I find a pretty general feeling spreading amongst collectors in favour of leaving such a variety to the advanced specialist. Therefore I don't think there is any need to get frightened about multiples, for you see the general collector will not bother whether his copy of the needed multiple is on ordinary or chalk-surfaced paper; hence there will be no rush for the ordinary paper, and as a consequence multiples will keep to ordinary new issue rates.

Buy British South Africa, First Issue

If you want a safe investment, buy British South Africa, first issue. They should be good, for many of them are surprisingly low in price, and I find that few dealers have much in the way of

stock of these early stamps; and when commented on the poverty-stricken character of one dealer's stock book, he said "They are getting scarce; in fact, scarcely know where I can go to replenish my stock, and, as you see, I haven't got many." Here is the range of prices from 1896:—

| Issue of 1891 | 1896 | '97 | '99 | '00 | '02 | '03 | '04 | '05 |
|------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1d., black | 02 | 02 | 04 | 04 | 09 | 09 | 06 | 06 |
| 6d., ultramarine | 20 | 30 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 36 | 50 | 60 |
| 6d., deep blue | 09 | 10 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 30 | 40 | 40 |
| 1s., grey-brown | 16 | 19 | 36 | 36 | — | — | 100 | 100 |
| 2s., vermilion | 30 | 36 | 76 | 76 | 76 | 76 | 76 | 76 |
| 2s. 6d., purple | 36 | 40 | 100 | 126 | 126 | 90 | 76 | 76 |

In this list the 1d. is certainly very much underpriced. The 2d. of the following bicoloured series is priced 1s., but from what I have seen I should say the 1d. is the scarcer of the two. All the lower values of the first type are probably worth buying.

Hong Kong Getting Scarce

Early Hong Kong stamps are unfortunately beyond the reach of the young collector, but some of the older readers of *G. S. W.* should keep an eye on the first and second issues. Most of them are pretty highly priced, but I find an opinion prevails amongst those who know these stamps best that they are difficult to get to sell at catalogue price in fine condition, and that the price will have to go up.

A few years ago Hong Kong could be had for the asking. Then an omnivorous specialist took a violent fancy to them and up they went. Here are the prices of 1896, known as a year of high prices and 1905, unused:—

| Issue of 1863-71 | 1896 | 1905 |
|------------------|-------|-------|
| 2 cents, brown | s. d. | s. d. |
| 4 " slate | 0 4 | 4 0 |
| 6 " lilac | 2 6 | 2 6 |
| 8 " orange | 2 0 | 5 0 |
| 12 " blue | 1 0 | 6 0 |
| 18 " lilac | — | 100 0 |
| 24 " green | 2 0 | 12 0 |
| 50 " mauve | 2 6 | 10 0 |
| 48 " rose | 6 0 | 12 0 |
| 96 " grey | 8 6 | 18 0 |

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The New G.P.O.

It is a trifle early yet to say what the new Post Office buildings on the site of the old Bluecoat School in the heart of the Metropolis will be like, but it is quite possible to gather from the plans that they will have an imposing frontage. However, there is little more than the foundation-stone in place at present, and what the King has just declared well and truly laid.



The future of our London postal arrangements will be a hard nut for some genius in organization to tackle. A smart go-ahead provincial postmaster told me what after a visit to the great central sorting establishment he could not help wondering how on earth the tons of letters that were poured into that one dépôt ever got out, and he returned to his provincial office to revise the routes for his mails, his one anxiety being to avoid their going through London.

"Daily News" Drivel

HERE'S a choice sample of *Daily News* drivel. That journal, in these latter days, is hard to beat in senility, but this par. is a choice one even for the *Daily News*. Can any of the readers of *G. S. W.* make head or tail? Hanged if I can!

What will the New Zealander think of the *Times* Book Club scheme? Will he wonder how people got so much for so little? We hope that he will be a stamp collector for his sake, but it seems unlikely that grown persons will still be collecting stamps in that distant age. After all, the world does improve. It is to be assumed that "the Postmaster-General's latest report" contained some account of that Minister's dealings with the "blackmailers and bloodsuckers," duly underlined, in order to show to future ages how people were kept in their place *consule* Lord Stanley. We take it that a signed photograph of his lordship was not omitted from the collection of postal curiosities, though the mention of it is modestly suppressed.

High Postal Wages

Tit-Bits tells of a man who carries the United States mails seven and a half miles daily to a small railway station near Washington, and is paid at the strange rate of one cent every four years. He accepts this low remuneration because the contract enables him to display "U.S. Mail" on his carrying wagon, and thus attract passengers.

Brother Jonathan in everything that concerns postal matters does the generous, but in any other line of work that carrier would probably have to pay a liberal acknowledgment for his attractive announcement.

Omnibus Letter Boxes

A CORRESPONDENT sends the following newspaper cutting as an indication of what may be expected in the direction of postal enterprise:—

The authorities of the Post Office of Brussels—that enterprising and charming city which rejoices in its reputation of being a miniature Paris—have recently carried out a new development of their postal facilities. By way of improving and accelerating their express-letter service they have had attached to all the trams and omnibuses neat and compact letter boxes. When a car or a bus stops at a crossing the boxes are emptied by the express messengers, who forthwith set to work to sort the letters according to their districts, and have them forwarded to their destinations. The idea of the scheme is to save the sender of a letter the trouble of going to a post office, and the letters thus posted in the cars and buses are delivered in from ten to twenty minutes.

Universal Penny Postage

MR. HENNIKER-HEATON is still pegging away at his Utopian scheme of a Universal Penny Post. He has, however, some reason for optimism in the fact that in July seven years since he carried a scheme for the British Empire of Imperial Penny Postage. Of such an achievement any man might well be proud, but Mr. Henniker-Heaton is not disposed to rest on his oars. He wants the wide world to share in this benefit; and he had the other day a whole page of the *Times* in which to have his say on the latest development of the movement. He ex-



MR. J. HENNIKER-HEATON

plained the position to the extent of two columns and a half, and the rest of the page was devoted to a collection of letters wishing him luck from Lord Roberts, Rudyard Kipling, the Lord Mayor, dukes, bishops, and all manner of influential people. Mr. Henniker-Heaton apparently thinks that while there is a surplus on the over-seas postal service its conveniences should be extended.

At the last four elections Mr. Heaton has been returned to Parliament for Canterbury unopposed; and after the

first year's working of his Imperial Penny Postage project (which makes a profit) he was given the freedom of the City of London in a gold casket, and the freedom of Canterbury in a silver one. Mr. Heaton is a native of Rochester, but many of his interests have been at the other side of the world. He is a landowner and proprietor of newspapers in Australia and has written a book on the aborigines of that continent. The penny post and the telegraphic cable have always interested him. He represented, twenty years ago, the Tasmanian Government at the Berlin Telegraph Conference; he introduced telegraph money orders in England; he was the means of starting the parcel post in France; and, as chess was a supreme hobby with him, he inaugurated the Parliamentary Chess Match played by cable between the United States and Great Britain in 1897.

Our King's Portrait

A CORRESPONDENT, commenting on and agreeing with my note about the Australians and the King's portrait, raised the old question as to the inartistic portrait on our own stamps—the German abortion.

I admit it is a guy, and it is no secret that it is so regarded in the highest quarters, but if my friend will refer to the reproductions in the *London Philatelist* of alternative portraits submitted by De la Rue and Co., he will realize that even in the selection of the prison-cropped Guy still allowed to appear on our English stamps, we might have hopped from the frying-pan into the fire by adopting an intensely funny full face.

I quite agree with my correspondent that our current English stamps would be hard to beat for ugliness of design and inartistic colouring.

The Canadian portrait is a most pleasing one, and should supersede the wholly unsatisfactory one on our own stamps.

THE PHILATELIST'S COLLECTING BOOK.

For the coat pocket. With patent fastening to flap. Size, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Handsomely bound in Art Cloth. Each book contains 12 pages, having four strips of linen, $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch wide, arranged horizontally, glued at the bottom edge and with the upper one open, for the safe retention and preservation of recent purchases or duplicates. A large pocket is also provided at the back for Envelopes or Stamps in bulk. In daily use by leading London Collectors. No. 17, post-free, 2s. 7d. No. 18—oblong, 24 pages, 6 strips on each page, interleaved with strong glazed paper to prevent rubbing—post-free, 5s. 4d.; abroad, 5s. 6d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 39x, Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR G. S. W. READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

OUR EIGHTH SPECIAL OFFER is as follows:—

We are clearing out our stock of post cards and envelopes in order to make room for other branches of our business, and we now offer the following packets at bargain prices, which in most cases will be about one quarter of catalogue price.

THE 20th CENTURY PACKETS OF POST CARDS AND LETTER CARDS

ALL UNUSED, ENTIRE, AND GUARANTEED GENUINE ORIGINALS

NO DUPLICATES.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

No. 670.—Contains 20 common varieties. Post-free, 1/-

No. 671.—Contains 27 other common varieties. Post-free, 1/3.

No. 672.—Contains 38 varieties, including some scarce. Post-free, 1/6.

No. 673.—Contains 35 varieties, including some scarce ones. Post-free, 1/9.

No. 674.—Contains 31 scarcer varieties, including Austrian Italy, Hungary, Belgium, Congo, and Brazil. Post-free, 3/1.

No. 675.—Contains 31 scarce varieties, including Bulgaria, Chili, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Morocco, Tunis, etc. Post-free, 2/1.

No. 676.—Contains 36 scarce varieties, including German East Africa, Greece, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands, Holland, Curaçao, Dutch Indies, Surinam, etc. Post-free, 3/2.

No. 677.—Contains 45 scarce varieties, including Italy, Eritrea, San Marino, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, etc. Post-free, 4/2.

No. 678.—Contains 48 scarce varieties, including Monaco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Orange Free State, Paraguay, Persia, Peru, Azores, Madeira, etc. Post-free, 5/2.

No. 679.—Contains 39 scarce varieties from Roumania, Russia, Finland, Servia, Shanghai, Siam, South African Republic, Spain, etc. Post-free, 3/8.

No. 680.—Contains 45 scarce varieties from Cuba, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay, etc. Post-free 5/-.

No. 681.—Contains 39 rare varieties from Argentine, Austrian Italy, Hungary, etc. Post-free, 3/6.

No. 682.—Contains 51 rare varieties from Belgium, Congo, Bolivia, Brazil, etc. Post-free, 8/-.

No. 683.—Contains 54 rare varieties from Bulgaria, Chili, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Iceland, etc. Post-free, 5/-.

No. 684.—Contains 54 rare varieties from Ecuador, Egypt, France, Tunis, Baden, Bavaria, etc. Post-free, 5/-

No. 685.—Contains 72 rare varieties from Wurtemberg, Greece, Guatemala, Hawaiian Islands, Hayti, Holland and Colonies. Post-free, 7/6.

No. 686.—Contains 62 rare varieties from Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Mexico, etc. Post-free, 7/3.

No. 687.—Contains 50 rare varieties from Monaco, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Persia, etc. Post-free, 5/2.

No. 688.—Contains 59 rare varieties from Peru, Portugal and Colonies, Roumania, etc. Post-free, 7/6.

No. 689.—Contains 78 rare varieties from Russia, Finland, Salvador, etc. Post-free, 7/6.

No. 690.—Contains 48 rare varieties from Shanghai, Siam, Spain and Colonies, Sweden, etc. Post-free, 8/6.

No. 691.—Contains 43 rare varieties from Switzerland, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, etc. Post-free, 5/-.

Order quickly, as we only possess from 6 to 40 each of the above packets.

Stanley Gibbons, 391, Strand, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Bechuanaland Protectorate.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. write us as follows: "The current Transvaal 2s. 6d. and £1 revenue stamps bearing King Edward's portrait have been overprinted 'Bechuanaland Protectorate,' and some journals have stated that these are for both postal and revenue use; but we have made inquiries, and are officially informed that the stamps in question are to be used exclusively for fiscal purposes, and are not available for postage. If any of them have been so used it has been 'out of course,' and letters bearing these stamps should have been treated as unpaid. We have ourselves seen postmarked specimens of the 2s. 6d. stamps, but no doubt this has been done by favour. There are now no postage stamps in use in the Bechuanaland Protectorate of a higher denomination than 5s. All the Queen's Head stamps of higher denominations than this are obsolete."

Brazil.—The 20 reis has come to hand with the watermark "Estados Unidos Brazil," and not as described on p. 217.



Wmk. "Estados Unidos Brazil." Perf.

20 reis, orange and blue.
200 ,, blue.

Crete.—Our friend "Philologos," a well-known and able linguist, writes to us as follows concerning some slips in a quotation we made from a contemporary in last week's *G.S.W.*:—

"May I draw your attention to two mistakes on page 282 of this week's *Weekly* in the English of the Greek inscription on the five stamps issued lately by the Revolutionary Government of Crete? In quoting from *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, Art. III, in the third line, the word 'Kubernieis' ought to read 'Kubernesis,' and the word 'Tax' ought to read 'Tach,' the 'ch' having the hard sound of our 'k.' I am sure you aim at being as accurate as possible at all times; hence, I venture to point out these two mistakes."

German Morocco.—The current stamps of the German Empire have been surcharged in the local currency—centimos and pesetas. The overprint "Marocco" and value is in black on all except the 3 marks, on which it is in red.

| |
|--|
| 3 centimos on 3 pf., brown. |
| 5 " " 5 pf., green. |
| 10 " " 10 pf., rose. |
| 25 " " 20 pf., blue. |
| 30 " " 25 pf., black and red. |
| 35 " " 30 pf., black and orange. |
| 50 " " 40 pf., black and carmine. |
| 60 " " 50 pf., black and violet. |
| 1 peseta 25 cents. on 1 mark, carmine, " |
| 2 " 50 " 2 " blue. |
| 3 " 75 " 3 " violet. |
| 6 " 25 " 5 " black and carmine. |

Malta.—The ½d. value has just been received on the multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

½d., red-brown.
½d., green.
1d., carmine and grey.
2d., grey and violet.
2½d., ultramarine.
4½d., brown.
5d., vermillion.
1s., grey and violet.

Switzerland.—The 20 c. and 25 c. values have been received on the multiple cross watermarked paper, which we described on p. 202.



Wmk. Multiple Cross. Perf.

20 c., vermillion.
25 c., yellow-green.
30 c., chestnut.

Turkey.—We now illustrate the new series of Turkish stamps which we chronicled on p. 202.



THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THE ROCKETS FLASHED TO AN ENORMOUS HEIGHT

CHAPTER XXIII (continued)

The untoward fate of the fête of Prince Albrandi

THEY left the gallery and went out once more on to the terrace. On the way Betty saw Count Orsikoff gliding through the crowd as if returning to the stamp room that they had just left; but, as it was not her place to keep an eye on the guests, she passed on and thought no more about it.

The terrace had been thrown into a state of semi-darkness, which at first caused a little wonder; but this was soon explained, for at a fresh signal a number of rockets burst from a pontoon moored in the Bay, opposite the terrace, where a magnificent display of fireworks had been arranged. The rockets flashed to an enormous height and descended in a rain of many-coloured stars, with very fine effect. Then followed a succession of other brilliant fireworks, Roman candles, and Bengal lights, which burned, flashed, and wound upwards in a glittering network, calling forth continually the enthusiastic applause of the spectators.

But the enthusiasm mounted higher still when, in an immense sea of fire, the outline of the Brahma-poetra stamp appeared, traced in jets of light in a frame more than ten yards high. It only lasted a minute, but was sufficient to call forth thunders of applause and clapping.

Finally, a sheaf of four thousand rockets, all let off at once, terminated the wonderful show, when the

lamps and electric lights were turned on again as if by enchantment.

Compliments were heaped on the Prince.

"It was marvellous!"

"I have never seen anything so fine!"

"Or so grand!"

"The picture was unrivalled; worthy of being painted and framed!"

"It was beautiful! Brilliant!"

The Russian Consul was particularly impressive in his enthusiasm.

"But what have you done with Count Orsikoff?" asked the Prince. "Has he deserted our fête?"

"He left me after the magic-lantern show," returned the Consul, "and I really do not know what has become of him."

"In any case you will tell him how delighted have been to see him here," said the Prince kindly.

He had scarcely spoken the last word when a footman, breaking through the admiring crowd, cried in a broken voice—

"Your Highness! Your Highness! The gold stamp has been stolen!"

"What nonsense is this?"

"Stolen, sir; stolen this very moment!"

"By whom? How?" cried the Prince, alarmed by the excitement and evident sincerity of his servant.

"By a Russian count, Count Orsikoff, I believe."

"There! I could have sworn it was Tilbury!" murmured Betty.

"It was Spartivento," agreed William.

"What! What!" exclaimed the Russian Consul. But the Prince had turned furiously to the footman. "Careless wretch!" cried he. "Why did you not catch him?"

"I threw myself upon him and caught him by one of his stars, but the star came off and he escaped."

And he piteously showed the great Russian star of Saint Anna, which everyone recognised as having shone, an hour earlier, on Count Orsikoff's breast.

They hastened to the stamp room, where the servant's story could only be verified.

The doors of the cabinet were hanging disjointedly with their hinges broken; the pages of the collection, with the exception of the most important one, were strewn on the floor; and the disorder showed plainly enough what had taken place.

"Well," said the Prince drily to the Consul, "what do you say to this, sir? Is it the custom among your boyars to repay hospitality in this manner?"

"I have been deceived like yourself," stammered the unfortunate diplomatist. "The man must have been an adventurer. I did not know him, and without his letter, which I believed to be from the ambassador——"



"THE GOLD STAMP HAS BEEN STOLEN!"

"You would do well to be more circumspect another time, sir, and not bring to people's houses persons of whom you are not certain."

And the Prince added, turning to the chief of police—

"This matter is in your hands, sir. I rely on your diligence and devotion."

"Be comforted, Prince," said the functionary with an important air, never falling short, as we have seen, in the matter of promises, "the man will be arrested to-morrow."

We can easily picture the chill thrown upon the festival by this unexpected disaster. In spite of all the efforts of the Prince, who, being a great nobleman to the very backbone, exerted himself to the utmost and affected absolute indifference, the charm was broken. The guests felt that, under his calm exterior, he had no longer any heart to enjoy himself or to see others enjoy themselves. So they stood about in corners or in small groups, looking embarrassed and speaking only in whispers, as if there were someone ill in the house.

"Come," said Prince Albrandi, trying to shake off the general torpor; "don't let us allow this accident to spoil our pleasure."

But his words had no effect, for the uneasiness

dominating the brilliant assembly had by this time become insurmountable. Little by little the room thinned till there remained but just enough guests to join in the cotillion which the Prince had prepared for them. William and Betty left at a somewhat early hour, to the great grief of their host, who wished them to stay longer, and made them promise to come and see him again. And as the landau returned to the Grand Hotel they marvelled over the strange theft, and the audacity of the thief in thus perpetrating it in the midst of so large a gathering.

"It is lucky for us that they saw him," said William "for otherwise, the object of our voyage being known they could not have failed to suspect us."

CHAPTER XXIV

Wherein William and Betty, after having been robbed narrowly escape being taken for the robbers

AS soon as morning came William and Betty scarcely giving themselves time to snatch a few hours' sleep, went on board a boat with the intention of spending the day at Capri.

"Faith," said the young man, as the steamer glided through the calm waters of the Bay, "we must not think we have lost everything. As we cannot have the stamp, let us explore the country and take back souvenirs."

"All the same," returned Betty, "you may as well confess that it really is vexing, and that our misadventures are enough to make us cross."

"Bah! You are exciting yourself to no purpose, Miss Betty. Do not let us think any more about it, but let us enjoy Nature in her beauty."

The boat, crossing the Bay obliquely, passed in review the enchanted shores whereon gleamed in the sun white houses, dark orange, and grey olive trees, which clothe the sides of the volcano. Sea and sky were so blue, mountains so rosy, and the whole scene so bright that one could scarcely believe it to be a terrestrial landscape. Everything seemed living, palpating, from the gulls skimming the waves with rapid flight, to the sails of the fishing-boats, whose graceful outlines were dotted like so many topazes on the dark background of sea.

Little by little the two Americans felt the charm of this divine country grow upon them. The Blue Grotto, which they visited, sent them into transports, as did the varied and magnificent views on the island—the imposing ruins of the palace of Tiberius, its dreadful rocks and majestic pinnacles.

On the return journey they saw quite different lights and colours. It was the sea now which had taken a rose tint in the rays of the declining sun, while Vesuvius had clothed himself in a most marvellous shade of violet. The sky had become purple, the distant houses gleamed like gems, and Naples, stretched at the foot of the hills, seemed like a garden of flowers, whose petals were glistening in the fleeting rays of the sun.

Standing silent in the bows William and Betty gazed around, marvelling at the inimitable harmony of the lights, so constantly changing in hue, yet never producing a discordant combination. So great was the influence of the scene that they no longer troubled about anything, and had completely lost sight of the object of their journey.

As William landed on the quay, his thoughts still fixed on all he had so lately seen, he caught sight of John, waiting for him and beckoning him with signs of despair.

"What is the matter?"

"They are perhaps going to arrest you!" returned the valet in a stifled voice.

"Arrest me?" cried William, recalled at once to mundane affairs.

"Yes, sir. The chief of the police came this

morning to search your room and Miss Scott's. He turned everything out and rummaged everywhere without saying a word, and then left this letter for you."

"This is cool!" said the young man in a tone of irritation, breaking the seal of the letter. It contained only these words:—

"SIR,—Be good enough to present yourself at my office as soon as you return. If you fail to comply with this request I shall be forced to compel your obedience.

"Yours, etc.,

"GIUSEPPE PETTO, Chief of Police."

"This is cool indeed!" repeated William, hastily entering the hotel.

It certainly seemed as if a pitched battle had taken place in the two rooms. Trunks wide open and empty; portmanteaus with their locks picked; dressing-bags flattened out, their contents strewn about in confusion. It was heart-breaking.

"The scoundrel!" said Betty.

"Let us go at once!" cried William, quite beside himself. "I will give him his deserts!"

"For goodness' sake," said Betty in alarm, "don't make things worse than they are. Discuss the matter with him and see what he wants."

But before reporting themselves at the police office they called on the United States Consul, who, unfortunately, was not in. William left his card, on which he added a few words of explanation, and they went on together to the Municipio. Here they had not to wait any time, as the chief's orders were that they should be admitted immediately.

"We are waiting for you to speak, sir," said William rigidly.

The functionary was not quite sure where to begin, or he was a little intimidated by the composed attitude of his auditors, in spite of all his assurance.

"Well," he began at last, "you must have been surprised that I should think it my duty to institute a search in your rooms—"

In vain he awaited some sign of astonishment or blame. William and Betty maintained their icy demeanour, which put him out visibly.

"It was certainly a very painful thing to do," he began again. "But judge for yourselves if I could have acted otherwise—"

The same coldness. The same silence.

"Can't you speak?" cried the chief.

"Your pardon," replied William. "You forget that we are here, not that we may be permitted to appreciate your actions, but simply to receive information concerning some crime—at least, so I suppose."

"Oh, a crime!" said Signor Petto, reddening a little.

"Certainly. For if no grave accusation is lodged against us I shall find myself under the painful necessity, sir, of proceeding against you for trespass and defamation—"

"You would do that!"

"I am quite prepared to do so, as you seem so reluctant to give us any information concerning the pillage of our apartments, and the very strange summons you have sent me."

The chief was not a man to feel uncomfortable in the presence of two "clients" against whom he had instigated proceedings; but this case required more careful handling than usual from the fact that, unable to get possession of Tilbury, or of Spartivento, or,

consequently, of Orsikoff, he had risked, in an access of discomfited rage, a search without warrant, in the rooms of foreigners whom he had but the most superficial reasons for suspecting. Convinced at first that it was a flash of genius which had established a connection in his mind between the movements of the two Americans and the thefts of the false count, he now began to consider the situation in cold blood and to feel he had gone a little too far.

For a moment he had hoped his victims would show signs of fear or attempt to escape. Some of his agents had, therefore, waited for the travellers on their return from Capri and never lost sight of them. But far from seeking to avoid him they had shown themselves more angry than frightened, and quite ready, to judge by appearances, to take up a very ugly position against him.

"This is all very well," he began again, "but after all, what have you come to Naples for?"

"I have already had the honour of enlightening you on that point, sir," returned William. "You will be kind enough, then, to spare me the trouble of repeating my statement."

"Who is to assure me, then, that this pretended Russian is not an agent employed by you to get possession of this stamp, which you, for some reason quite incomprehensible to me, covet so greatly?"

"Really, sir," said Betty with remorseless irony, "you had such a wonderfully good opportunity of coming to an understanding with Count Orsikoff himself on this matter that I wonder you did not summon him also."

William added his word.

"Indeed," said he, "you do seem to be born under a lucky star. To abuse the innocent and so obstinately avoid arresting the guilty shows nothing less than a genius for clear-sightedness."

"But who is to prove you are indeed the people you say you are, and are not usurping a false position?"

"Alas that you did not apprehend Commander Spartivento!" returned William. "All my papers are in his hands."

"Oscar Tilbury holds the same place of Keeper of the Records with regard to me," said Miss Betty, "for he has not left me the smallest proof of my identity."

Signor Petto was now in an absolute rage about this villain, who was so hard to catch, and who had so cruelly taken upon himself three different incarnations, as it were, under his very eyes.

"I shall hold you at my disposal," he snarled.

"I protest against it," said William, rising.

The chief was about to reply when the United States Consul arrived, and very much against his will he was compelled to let him come in.

"What is this I have just learnt?" said the Consul.

"Mr. Keniss and Miss Scott troubled by the police?"

"But," said Signor Petto, "who is to prove that these two people are—"

"I am. I tell you so. I formerly knew Mr. Keniss' father, and I remember Miss Scott very well, having seen her in New York, though she was very young at the time. We talked a good deal together yesterday at Prince Albrandi's, and I can assure you that, being in possession, between them, of a hundred million dollars, they have no need to resort to highway robbery."

"A hundred million dollars!" repeated the chief of police, a benevolent expression dawning on his face at the mention of so fabulous a sum.

(To be continued.)

THE BEST STAMP HINGES.

We have just prepared a new stamp hinge, of convenient size, put up in *air-tight tin boxes*, each containing 1000 hinges of good tough paper, doubly gummed, and thus easily peelable. Post-free, 7d. per box.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Birmingham Philatelic Society

October 5th.—Annual Meeting. The election of the following members was confirmed:—Mrs. A. Bather, Messrs. D. P. Davies, H. W. Johnston, G. Herbers, J. W. P. Harte, T. J. White, G. H. Dannatt, J. H. Tite, J. H. Faber, W. Jaggard, F. R. Ginn, L. Alisaffi, C. L. Pickard; Messrs. A. Jones and W. H. M. Marsden were also elected members.

The following programme was approved:—

1905.
Oct. 17. (Tuesday). Display, West Indies. W. B. Avery.
Nov. 2. Paper, "Turkey." P. T. Deakin.
" 30. Auction.
Dec. 7. Paper, "Notes on Odd Varieties." G. Johnson.
1906.
Jan. 4. Lantern Display. J. A. Margoschis.
Feb. 1. Paper, "Greece." T. W. Morris.
" Display, Seychelles. J. W. Heath.
" 2. Auction.
Mar. 1. Display, British North America. R. Hollick.
" 22. Paper, "China." P. T. Deakin.
Apr. 5. Paper, "St. Vincent." W. Pimm.
May 3. Display, African Colonies. C. A. Stephenson.

The *Stamp Collector* was adopted as the official journal of the Society for the next twelve months.

£15 was voted to the Permanent Collection, which now contains 15,579 varieties, mounted in Gibbons' Imperial Albums, with blank sheets for miscellaneous varieties, an increase of 3515 for the year.

The Officers and Committee were all re-elected.

The Report and Balance Sheet, showing a cash balance of £74. 13s. 1½d., were approved.

The total value of stamps circulated during the past year was £29,763. 5s. 5d., and the sales have been £3217. 15s. 3d.

Mrs. Bridson, Mrs. Lake, Messrs. Wollacott, Henderson, Larssen, Hollick, Durrant, Brookes, and Herbers were thanked for recent donations to the Permanent Collection, and the list of donors for the year was ordered to be written in the front of the albums.

Mrs. Lake, Messrs. W. Hadlow, C. T. Reed, and J. J. Smith were thanked for donations to the Library; as were Messrs. Hadlow, Plumridge & Co., Puttick & Simpson, and Ventom, Bull, & Cooper for sending priced catalogues for the past year. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., H. L'Estrange Ewen, Alfred Smith & Son, S. C. Skipton, W. Morley, and Th. Lemaire were thanked for the current volumes of their periodicals, and records of the same have been put into the Annual Report, which may be had on application to the Hon. Sec.

Will members and others kindly note that the address of the Society is 308, Birchfield Road, not 208? The number was altered by the authorities eighteen months ago, and I have given repeated notices of it, but many letters are still addressed to the old number, which is now in another postal delivery, indeed in another county delivery, and so it causes delay.

Lots for the Auction on 30 November must reach the Hon. Sec. by 5 November at latest.

Colonial and foreign collectors and dealers having nice stamps for sale or exchange are welcomed, in addition to home philatelists of good standing.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., Official Address: 308, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

The Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society

ON Thursday, 12 October, 1905, a meeting was held at 139, Redland Road, Alderman Gardner, J.P., the chair.

Mr. E. Heginbottom sent his fine collection of stamps for Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, and Cayman Islands, which made a very interesting meeting to the members present.

The next meeting will be held 16 November, and the display will be Dominica, Grenada, and Jamaica. HENRY ALSOP, *Hon. Secretary*, 25, Alma Road, Clifton, Bristol.

Programme for Season 1905-6.

1905.
Nov. 16. Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.
Dec. 7. Barbados.
1906
Jan. 11. General Meeting.
Feb. 8. Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, Tobago.
Mar. 8. St. Vincent.
April 5. St. Lucia, Trinidad, Turks Islands.
May 10. Virgin Islands, Leeward Islands, British Honduras, Falkland Islands.

Dundee and District Philatelic Society

President: Mr. F. David.

Secretary and Exchange Secretary: G. H. Whitaker.

Treasurer: Mr. P. McIntosh.

Programme for 1905

- Oct. 27. Display: Africa. E. Heginbottom, B.A. With Notes.
Nov. 10. Discussion: "Best way to arrange a collection." G. H. Whitaker.
" 24. Display: Great Britain. The Members.
Dec. 8. Questions and Answers.
" 29. Display: Africa. Part II, with Notes. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.

Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

THE opening meeting of the new season was held on Wednesday, 18 October, 1905, at the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., and was very well attended.

The chair was taken by Mr. E. A. Klaber at 6.30 p.m., when, on the proposition of Mr. D. C. Tewson, the minutes of the annual general meeting were taken as read and duly signed.

The Hon. Treasurer then produced the balance sheet signed by the Hon. Auditor, and this was passed. A copy, if required, may be had upon application.

Since the issue of the new report the following three members have resigned: Messrs. H. P. Harper, W. Dowzall, and A. E. Moore.

Seven new members were elected as follows: Messrs. Guttesen, South Africa; A. G. Schofield, Stroud Green; E. F. Lepard, Stratford, C. Pillow, Ilford; F. A. Meggy, Romford; and C. H. Moulds, Seven Kings.

The resignation of Mr. Harper rendered vacant one seat on the Committee, and Mr. E. W. Butcher was elected to fill the post.

In view of the rapidly increasing amount of labour entailed in the working of the Society, it was decided to create a new office, viz. that of Exchange Super-

tendent, and Mr. A. H. Harris was unanimously elected to conduct the exchange section from January, 1906. Due notice of the change will be given to all members, and full instructions with regard to the change will be forwarded in good time.

General business having been dealt with, the Chairman called upon Mr. W. B. Edwards, who read an able paper on "The Pictorial Issues of New Zealand," accompanied by a very fine display of the stamps under discussion. The stamps were shown in used and unused, singles and mint blocks of four, in the various perforations and papers in which this issue bounds.

Mr. Edwards's remarks were greatly appreciated by the meeting.

This item was followed by the sale and exchange which are to be a regular feature at the meetings this season, and a very pleasant evening terminated at 10.30 p.m.

One of the items on the programme for next meeting is a general display of King's Head Colonials by members, and it is hoped that all present will show something in this line. Whatever King's Heads you have, whether a few or a lot, just mount them up and bring them along, or if you have no time to specially mount them, just bring your album.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: F. Reichenheim, Esq.

Secretary: H. A. Slade, Esq., "Nine-Fields," St. Albans.

Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W.C., Third Tuesdays.

Subscription: 5s. annually.

THE above Society commenced the 1905-6 season at its new headquarters on 17 October in the transformed Southampton Row, amidst all the splendours of the opening decorations. The new President, Mr. Franz Reichenheim, occupied the chair, and twenty other members supported him, amongst whom were Mr. H. L. Hayman (Vice-President), and Messrs. L. E. Bradbury, A. Bagshawe, R. Frentzel, S. Chapman, W. A. Boyes, W. T. Standen, T. H. Harvey, A. H. Giles, W. G. Cool, W. Simpson, K. Wiehen, M. Simons, J. E. Lincoln, jun., R. Meyer, T. F. Stafford, L. W. Fulcher, D. Thomson, J. B. Neyron, and H. A. Slade, Secretary. A general meeting was first held, when donations to the Permanent Collection, received during the summer months, were acknowledged from the President, Mr. Philip Kosack of Berlin, Mrs. Young and Messrs. Boyes, Harvey, Neck, Brown, Bois, and Webster. The collection having attained considerable dimensions, a sub-committee consisting of the President, Mr. J. C. Sidebotham (Librarian), and Mr. J. C. Cool were appointed to mount the stamps and take charge of same. Mr. Reichenheim, Mr. Hayman, and Mr. Bagshawe offered to present two volumes each of a certain album, which will probably be accepted. The following donations to the Library were thankfully accepted: Mr. W. T. Standen *G.S.W.* vol. 1 (bound); Mr. F. Reichenheim, latest editions of Senf's and Kohl's Catalogues and Catalogue de la Société Française de Timbrologie, and the following works published by the London Philatelic Society: Stamps of the West Indies, of Oceania, of Tasmania, De La Rue Stamps of India, and Catalogue of Postage Stamps of Spain.

Names of members for the advanced packet were submitted to the Committee and approved.

Business being concluded, the President gave a display of his almost complete collection of the unpaid letter and newspaper stamps, and F. M. stamps of France. The first country to issue unpaid letter stamps, there is much of interest amongst the varieties shown, and numerous mint copies were examined. The two different types, 20 mm. square and 19½ mm. square, were displayed, as also an interesting copy of the 15 c. altered to 25 by a manuscript surcharge. Copies of the frank stamps and the F. M. surcharges, and also a fine collection of the bisected stamps used

during the Franco-Prussian War, added much to the general interest. At the conclusion the President passed round his general French collection, and many added gems were admired.

Mr. Giles proposed and Mr. Frentzel seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Reichenheim, which was carried with applause. The President suitably responded.

The following new members were elected during the evening: Lieut.-Col. J. G. Adamson, of Glenfarne, co. Leitrim, an ordinary member, was elected as a life member. As ordinary members: Messrs. H. G. Watson and J. A. D. Reade, of St. Edmund's School, Canterbury; Miss M. D. Mason, of Folkestone; Messrs. C. F. Lepned, of Stratford; J. Rabino, of Threadneedle Street; C. H. Garnett, of Streatham; M. Simons, of New Barnet; J. E. Lincoln, junior, of Hampstead, and L. P. Walker, of Pembridge Gardens, W. This makes the total membership 184.

Much pleasure was evinced at the return of Mr. W. Simpson, a past official, on his return to the meetings after an absence of over eighteen months, occasioned by his late dangerous illness, from which he has happily recovered.

Philatelic Society of Victoria

President: W. R. Rundell.

Secretary: W. Brettschneider.

Meetings: 128, Russell Street, Melbourne.

THE ordinary general meeting of the above Society was held on Thursday, 14 September, 1905, at 8 p.m., at 128, Russell Street.

The President, Mr. W. R. Rundell, occupied the chair, and there were ten members and the Secretary present.

A letter received from Mr. Hammar, of South Australia, re exchange, was left on the table for members to note address, etc.

Messrs. W. F. C. Adena, F. Heilmann, and W. A. Hull having been recommended by the Committee for election, were balloted for and duly elected members of the Society.

Positions in Book 148 were next balloted for.

The following gentlemen presented stamps for the two Reference Collections now being formed by the Society: Mr. J. Davis, a set of forgeries of U.S.A., Columbus issue; Mr. Jackson, three sheets of duplicates for disposal; Mr. Horwood, seventy-five stamps of Victoria.

Mr. Derrick promised to present the Society with an album for the Victorian collection, and the Secretary presented a stock book for keeping the stamps in the meantime.

The members' attention is drawn to the fact that presentations can be made of stamps of any country. These will be circulated in the Exchange Books, and the money realized will be used for purchasing such stamps of Victoria as are wanted in the official collection.

It was proposed by Mr. Rundell, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and carried, that the night of meeting be altered to the third Thursday in the month.

Mr. Horwood showed a 1d., Victoria, on Crown and A paper, perforated 11, and informed the members that he had also seen the 2d. on V and Crown paper perforated 11, which had hitherto not been seen with that perforation.

A discussion arose re the perforated O.S. stamps, and the members present came to the unanimous decision that these stamps were just as collectable as stamps overprinted "O.S."

Mr. Rundell (by permission of the Deputy Postmaster-General) showed the latest issues received from the Berne Office of the International Postal Union.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the meeting.

Sheffield Y.M.C.A. Philatelic Society

Programme of Arrangements

Session 1905-6

Oct. 16. Paper, "Watermark, Perforation."

R. Sneath.

Nov. 20. "Austria," with Display. J. F. Peace.

Dec. 18. "Victoria," with Display. R. Sneath.

1906

Jan. 15. "Stamps and Stamp Collecting."

J. H. Chapman

Feb. 19. "The Post." G. H. Hunt.

Mar. 19. "Spain," with Display. J. H. Chapman.

April 23. General Display. The Society.

May 21. Annual Meeting.

The Society meets on the first and third Monday each month. Meetings commence at 8 o'clock. Reading of Papers at 8.15. W. G. JOHNSON, *Hon. Sec.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

B. A. M. C. (Beckenham).—Great Britain and Colonies used and unused is a tall task. For such a collection the only possible album is a blank movable leaf album. Possibly you do not mean that you are collecting everything unused and also used, but a collection in which some stamps are used and other stamps unused, i.e. a mixed collection. For such a collection your best album will be Stanley Gibbons' Imperial Album—Great Britain and Colonies, published at 10s. in cloth, or, half-bound and better paper, 15s.

G. J. (Liverpool).—Thanks for your kindly interest in *G.S.W.* and for sending a copy to your friend in South Africa. You will see that we have chronicled the 3d. and 1d. Transvaal in one colour instead of bicoloured.

Beginner (Bristol).—The special album for young collectors is being prepared by Stanley Gibbons as rapidly as possible, and we hope to say shortly when it will be issued. It will practically be on the lines of which we are writing up the countries of the world in *G.S.W.* The Catalogue for Beginners will follow after the album as soon as it can be completed.

A Stamp Fiend (Hampstead).—The prices quoted in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of Envelopes and Wrappers, etc., for Mulready's are as follows:—

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d. black (Envelope) . . | 17 6 | 12 6 |
| 1d. „ (Letter sheet) . . | 10 0 | 12 6 |
| 2d. blue (Envelope) . . | 30 0 | 70 0 |
| 2d. „ (Letter sheet) . . | 30 0 | 55 0 |

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

NOVEMBER, 1905

4. Junior Philatelic Society: Auction Sale; 5.30 p.m. Display—Great Britain; J. S. Higgins, jun.; 8 p.m. Two diplomas will be awarded for the best collections of Great Britain submitted to the Examining Committee by members, (a) over twenty-one years of age; (b) under twenty-one.
6. Liverpool Philatelic Society: W. D. Beckton. Display—Roumania.
7. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—British North America.
- 7 & 8. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London, W.C. 4.30 p.m.
8. International Philatelic Union: Lantern Display.
- 9 & 10. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
10. London Philatelic Society: Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg. A Paper entitled "Philatelic Researches in Australia," illustrated with impressions from dies and plates, and pulls from perforating and rouletting machines.
- Manchester Philatelic Society: Display of U.S.A., with Notes by W. W. Munn.
14. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: Display, at Dunorlan, Panbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, at 3 p.m.
- 14 & 15. Auction: Glendinning and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society: General Display by Members. British Colonial King's Heads. Display with Notes—Barbados. E. Heginbottom, B.A., with Display of the Society's Collection of Forgeries, Reprints, and Bogus Issues, with Notes by the Hon. Counterfeit Detector. General Sale and Exchange.
- 16 & 17. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
17. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Dominica and Jamaica, opened by J. S. Gee.
18. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; 6 p.m. Paper and display—Colombia, Republic and States; A. H. L. Giles R.N.; 8 p.m. Display—African Colonies II, Gambi and Gold Coast; 9 p.m.
20. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—Collecting as a Hobby, opened by J. Hughes. Displays of British Bechuanaland and Panama.
21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—British Guiana, with Notes by J. H. Thackrah.
- Herts Philatelic Society: Display of West Australia, with Notes by L. L. R. Hausburg.
- 23 & 24. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Display of Orange Free State, with Notes by W. D. Beckton.
- London Philatelic Society: Mr. B. D. Knox. A Paper entitled "The Malta Local Post and its Stamps," with Display.
- 28 & 29. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

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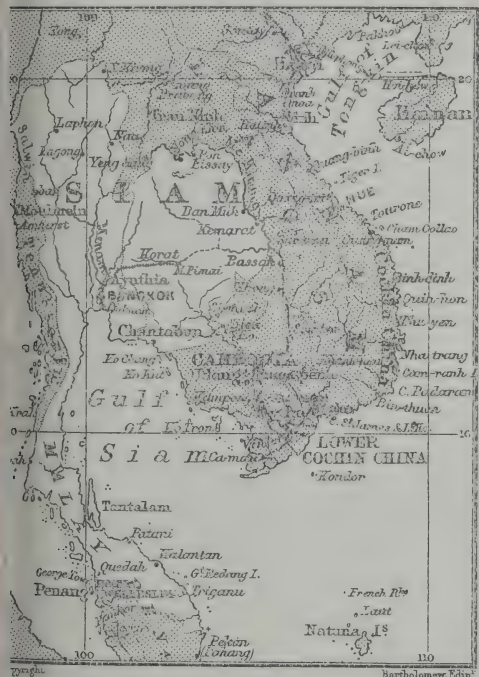
11 NOVEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Bangkok



rich gardens, and shining temples and palaces. The royal palace, built of stone, is surrounded by high walls nearly a mile in circumference. Most of the trade is carried on upon the river; even the local traffic of the place is done by canals, as there are few passable streets in the city.

The population is variously estimated between 400,000 and 600,000. The annual trade is said to amount to nearly six millions sterling.

Its Philatelic History

Bangkok figures in the British Empire section of Gibbons Catalogue: this might at first sight be taken to mean that away back in the eighties of the last century the British had some sort of foothold in the city, but those who read the explanatory line under the title will learn that we only established a post office there for the convenience of British residents and traders in days when Siam had no sufficient postal service of its own.

The current stamps of the Straits Settlements were simply overprinted with a large "B" as the initial of the city of Bangkok. In 1885, Siam, having established a postal service, joined the Postal Union, and in the following year the overprinted Straits stamps were withdrawn from use, so that there are only a couple of issues preceded by one earlier stamp.

BANGKOK, the capital of Siam, is made up of a succession of towns on both sides of the River Menam, which as its outfall twenty miles distant into the Gulf of Siam. The city is made up of floating houses, houses on piles reached by ladders, houses on land with

These stamps are very scarce, and there are many more forgeries than genuine copies to be found knocking about amongst collectors and dealers. It is not a country for the young collector; nevertheless, it must be taken in passing and listed in its place. Some day some fortunate lad may have a lot of the stamps presented to him, and then he will be glad to turn back to our record of the issues. Meanwhile, no copy should be purchased except from a leading firm with a reputation to lose; at all events, any stamp taken in exchange or purchased in a general way should be submitted to some expert friend.

1882-5. One value, being the 32 cents of the 1867 issue of the Straits Settlements overprinted in black with a large capital letter "B." It will be remembered that the 1867 issue was the first issue of Straits stamps, and was provided by surcharging the then current stamps of India with a crown, and the value in cents, in place of the original value expressed in annas on the Indian stamps. This first stamp of Bangkok is the 32 cents of this first series of Indian stamps surcharged for the Straits, additionally overprinted with the letter "B."

Overprinted on Straits Settlements stamps.



(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII, or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$; available for mounting stamps, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

On the issue of 1867.

32 c., in black on yellow Unused. Used.

Then ten values of Straits Settlement issues of 1868-82, watermarked Crow CC, were overprinted with the large capital "B."



On the issues of 1868-82.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 cents, brown | — | — |
| 4 " rose | 120 0 | 100 0 |
| 5 " purple-brown | 12 6 | — |
| 6 " lilac | 7 6 | 7 6 |
| 8 " orange | — | 20 0 |
| 10 " slate | 40 0 | 20 0 |
| 12 " blue | 50 0 | — |
| 24 " green | 10 0 | 6 0 |
| 30 " claret | — | — |
| 96 " slate | £8 | — |

And finally there was an overprinting of the large capital "B" on the Straits Settlements issue of 1883. This issue served till the use of stamps surcharged for use in Bangkok was discontinued in January, 1886.

On issue of 1883.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 cents, brown | 20 0 | 15 0 |
| 2 " rose | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 4 " " | 35 0 | 35 0 |
| 4 " brown | 3 6 | 3 6 |
| 5 " blue | 25 0 | 20 0 |
| 6 " lilac | 30 0 | 15 0 |
| 8 " orange | 5 0 | 4 0 |
| 10 " slate | 7 6 | 5 0 |
| 12 " purple | 17 6 | 17 6 |

STAMPS MADE FOR COLLECTORS

By REV. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

THE first time I saw the phrase which appears at the head of this article found myself divided between two opinions. It was a pleasing thought that we stamp collectors were considered so important a body that Governments took the trouble to print stamps especially for our benefit. But the other thought revolved itself into a question, the answer to which was the reverse of pleasing. Why do these Governments issue series after series of stamps mainly for the idlers of the philatelic hobby-horse? And the truth dawned on me. Governments are not charity organizations. Often-times they find themselves "hard up" "*sine pecunia*," as an educated beggar once described his penniless condition to me). What simpler means of filling the empty coffers could be devised than that of issuing a new series of stamps? Create a supply, and there and then you create a demand. It is the old story of the rusty words of Waterloo. The eager tourist wanted some keepsake of that memorable fight. And lo! the supply was limitless. Needless to add, scarce a tithe of these accoutrements of war were genuine relics of the battle.

It is, then, a doubtful compliment that these Governments have paid us. In most cases the plain fact is that these "stamps made for collectors" were issued with the idea of extracting money from the collector's pocket.

There are two main classes of such stamps.

In the first class are those issued by countries which have little or no legitimate use for stamps.

To the second class belong those issues of stamp-using countries which appear from year to year with no apparent reason for the change of design.

Now, the experienced collector ignores these speculative issues. Their artistic designs and attractive appearance do not

deceive him. He knows that they are of little worth. He knows, too, that they are never likely to rise in value. Not so the young beginner; he fills page after page with them after the manner of a scrap-book, and fondly imagines that he is amassing a goodly array. The colouring is brilliant. The stamps are far more pleasing to the eye than most of the humdrum specimens of such a country as Great Britain. But what of the value of such a collection? Well, its value is about on a par with that of a well-ordered scrap-book.

The beginner, then, will naturally want to know what are these issues of stamps against which he must be on his guard.

Let us take a few examples of the first class.

Obock is a French possession on the African coast of the Red Sea. Its population in 1896 was 22,370, less than that of Peterborough or Ramsgate. In 1889 its rule was in the hands of a governor and eight officials. Its capital is a village of huts. Yet in three years—1892, 1893, 1894—no less than seventy-seven different varieties were issued. Very few of these stamps are to be met with in a used condition, for the obvious reason that there were but few people to use them.

In 1902, 1903, the total sale of Niue stamps amounted to some £800, which, according to Mr. Castle in the *London Philatelist*, works out to something like twelve thousand letters per head for the two years, a somewhat formidable total for an island where the art of writing is little known.

Probably the worst offenders are the protectorates of Labuan and North Borneo. Year after year new designs, or old designs surcharged with new values, swell the list, and one realizes more and more the truth of the proverb that "fools and their money are easily parted." Unfortunately, the foolishness

referred to here is mainly due to ignorance of the nature of the stamps or labels so lavishly adorned and so plentifully bestowed on the long-suffering stamp collector.

We pass on to the second class of "stamps made for collectors," viz. series issued *ad nauseam* by countries which have a perfectly legitimate use for stamps. The notorious case of the Central and South American Republics has already been mentioned in the article on Reminders. Mention has also been made of the many speculative issues due to the needless surcharging of ordinary stamps. The colony of Ceylon sinned most grievously in this respect. Other colonies followed suit until the grievance became intolerable. The matter was brought before the Home Government, and Lord Ripon, the Colonial Secretary, in 1893 put an end to the wholesale surcharging on the part of the colonies.

Commemorative Stamps

Many stamps have been issued to commemorate great historical events. The earliest examples of this kind are seen in the two large shield Envelope stamps of the United States issued in 1876 to commemorate the centenary of the Declaration of Independence. The design contrasted the method of communication in 1776 with that of 1876. The "mail" pony at full gallop figures in the upper half, while a railway engine, with mail-van attached, forms the design of the lower half.

The year 1890 saw the Jubilee anniversary of the introduction of postage stamps and the penny post. The commemoration of such a landmark in the postal history of the nation could not be allowed to pass without special notice. Accordingly a Postal Exhibition was held at the Guildhall, London, on 16 May. A post card ornamented with various heraldic devices, and bearing a penny stamp to frank it through the post, was issued for sale on that night only, as a remembrance of the Jubilee. On 2 July an envelope, with card enclosed, commemorative of the Jubilee, was issued at South Kensington. The Guildhall post card realized a profit of over £200. The South Kensington envelope with card is said to have brought over £10,000. These sums were handed over to the

"Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund for the Relief of Postal Servants throughout the United Kingdom."

The example of Great Britain gave a great stimulus to the issue of Commemorative stamps. In 1893 the United States issued the handsome set of large oblong stamps commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America. Certain of the Central and South American Governments also claimed a share in Columbus, for was he not the discoverer of America? Argentine, Venezuela, and Puerto Rico issued adhesives in honour of the event. Paraguay satisfied her ambition with a Columbian envelope.

Portugal launched a series of fifteen stamps commemorating the voyages of Prince Henry the Navigator. This proved highly lucrative. Therefore St. Antony of Padua came in for a flattering commemoration of the seventh centenary of his birth in the shape of a series of fifteen stamps for use in Portugal and her colonies. This St. Antony was born at Lisbon in 1195. He became a prominent Franciscan monk, and died at Padua in 1231. Legend relates that he preached to the fishes when men refused to hear him. Hence he has been looked upon as the patron of the lower animals, and is often represented as accompanied by a pig. Fortunately for stamp collectors, only one-eighth of this issue found buyers. The rest were left on the hands of the Government, and were destroyed.

Some of the pretexts for issuing Commemorative stamps have been very absurd. Bulgaria hit upon the baptism of Prince Boris into the Greek Church in 1896. Roumania celebrated her Prince's "half-jubilee" by a set of five adhesives in 1891. Belgium commemorated the Brussels Exhibition by means of five and ten centimes stamps. San Marino imagined that the opening of a new Government building was sufficient justification for a commemorative issue in 1894. In the same year there appeared two Japanese stamps commemorative of the silver wedding of the Mikado. Two years later four more appeared to commemorate the war with China. In 1900 the marriage of the Prince Imperial led to yet another Japanese commemorative label on which a pile of mochi cakes and two pair of chop-sticks were represented. Monte-

negro turned out an issue in 1893 commemorative of the introduction of printing. In 1898 a further series of twelve stamps bore witness to the bicentenary of the existing dynasty. The fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Shanghai to British trade in 1843 was suitably commemorated by a Jubilee 2 cent stamp in 1893, which bore the figure of Mercury on a winged wheel. In most if not all of these cases the stamps were issued for a very limited period, and they did not take the place of current issues.

Many commemorative issues, however, have taken the place of the ordinary issues, and have seen as much postal service as any other issue of the country. Of such are the Columbus, Omaha, and Pan-American Exposition series, the Diamond Jubilee issues of Canada, the Cabot series of Newfoundland, and the "Captain Cook" centenary stamps of New South Wales. Of the Canadian Jubilee Issue, twenty million of the 3 cents, carmine, were printed, but only

one hundred and fifty thousand of the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, black. The latter is therefore becoming rare. It is now catalogued at a shilling, whereas the 3 cents, used, may be obtained for a "copper."

The Newfoundland issues of 1897 are also becoming scarce. They commemorate the discovery of the land by Sebastian Cabot in 1497. The 1 cent, green, commemorates the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The rest depict Cabot, his ship the *Matthew*, the head of Henry VII, who granted Cabot a charter of discovery, and scenes of the colony's resources—mining, logging, fishing, etc.

New South Wales was discovered by Captain Cook in 1770. It was colonized in 1788. The year 1888 accordingly saw the centenary of the colony's birthday. The commemorative issue includes a picture of Captain Cook on the 4d., and two portraits, that of Captain Phillip, the first governor, and that of Lord Carlington, the governor in 1888, on the £1 stamp.

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

"TWO OF A STAMP"

By C. RAYMOND MEGSON

THE 2nd of October, 190—, was an auspicious day for Eric Vaughan; exactly eighteen years previously he had exalted Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan to the rank of Pa and Ma respectively. Devoted relations had flocked to receive viva voce the latest bulletins concerning the cherub; but the novelty of the new arrival wore off, and in course of time other cherubim arrived to claim a portion of the affections of these devoted relations, and Eric had to be content with the undivided love of admiring parents and a faithful maiden aunt who wore blue spectacles and invariably spoke in copy-book maxims.

It was this faithful aunt who had sent him the parcel he was busy opening on the morning of this, his eighteenth birthday. The string cut, the outside paper removed—delight of delights, a brand-new stamp album lay before him, filling

his philatelic heart with untold glee. "Spanking!" he said—a remark which was expressive, but which would not have met with the approval of the aforesaid aunt. "What a lovely day I'll have transferring my stamps from my old album into the new!" And as he tenderly fingered his present, the door opened and his friend Terence Ross entered.

"Many happy returns of the day," he said.

"Thank you," Eric replied; and full of love for his new album, he showed it proudly to the new-comer, who looked at it with longing, but said, "I want you to come a walk."

Eric replied, "Oh, I can't this morning; I must do my stamps."

"Nonsense," rejoined Terence, "there is plenty of time to attend to stamps; but we shall have few more days this year so beautiful as this. Forget stamps

for once, with their perfs. and shades, and come out and study the shades of Dame Nature."

Eric looked out of the window, and partly relented. A lovely view met his gaze. The horizon-bounded panorama of Nature bathed in sunshine appealed strongly to him. Lanes winding through meadow land lay before him, lost from time to time in some hollow, and finally vanishing over the peak of some hill or becoming lost to view in distance. Farmsteads dotted here and there, and the tints of autumn, added beauty to Nature's pageant; and as Eric opened the French windows and stepped on to the lawn, the crisp, exhilarating air which kissed his brow and cheek decided him to leave his stamps until the evening.

The two set out on their pedestrian jaunt, at first without any fixed destination, but ultimately deciding to walk to Bingford, make a detour through the by-paths to Dick Lever's, a famous old hostelry and landmark on the borders of Ramblers' Moor, and there have lunch.

This was a favourite walk of the two friends; but on previous occasions when they had lunched at Dick Lever's, they had invariably been attended to by a girl whom they had designated "The Princess," owing to her graceful, stately figure, well-modulated voice, and excellently shaped hands. On this occasion, however, a fresh girl waited upon them.

Discreet inquiries elicited the information that "The Princess" was ill. She lived alone with a widowed mother, whose means were inadequate to meet the common household expenses, and "The Princess" had volunteered to get a situation to lessen their monetary troubles. For some months past she had been in poor health, and nature had at last revolted against the extra strain placed upon her delicate constitution, and she was now lying upon a bed of sickness. Before she could thoroughly recover, it was imperative that she should spend a month by the sea, and the poor mother was distracted at being unable to provide for this. Her reticence and strained notion of pride made it almost impossible for any one to offer help.

The picture of this poor girl's sufferings saddened the two friends, and on their journey home they at first spoke little. Though the balm of Nature's sweetest

smile can only hush the grieving of the heart, the drinking in of Arcadia's charm can effectually banish sadness from the mind, and soon the two boys had regained their usual cheerfulness, and enjoyed to the full the beauty of their surroundings; and the pure air exhilarated them.

When within a hundred yards or so of a sharp turn in the hedge-bound road Eric said, "I say, Terry, I'll race you for a half-crown set of stamps to the hedge and over."

"Right you are," responded Terence "One, two, three, off!" and away the two bounded, at first abreast; but when Terence reached the hedge Eric was twenty yards behind. He gave a spring, cleared the hedge in splendid style, and—splash!

Eric stopped short, then hurried to the hedge. Peering over, he beheld his friend struggling in a stagnant pool from which he emerged looking as though he little enjoyed his unpremeditated plunge. He bore his misfortune stoically, however, and as he attempted to brush the trickling water from his eyes with the back of his wet hands smiled, and said:—

"I say,—old—chap,—it's—a—good—job that it—wasn't a—neck-and-neck—finish."

Eric laughed, and retorted, "Yes, it is, indeed; but you have the honour, though, of discovering a new water-mark"; and as he espied the weed clinging to Terence's hair, added, "Single Crown, laureated."

"But we must not stop here; we must——"

His sentence was interrupted by a cheery voice, saying:—

"Hello! hello! A terrible predicament to be sure!" and the two beheld a pleasant-faced man of about forty. "Come home with me, will you? I can help you in your misfortune."

Terence accepted thankfully his unknown benefactor's kind offer, and soon the three arrived at a rambling old grey house, where Terence indulged in a bath more congenial than his former one, and finally appeared before Eric cutting a comical figure in a suit a size too large.

Their benefactor ordered tea, during which repast he regaled the boys with stirring personal adventures in South

America and interesting anecdotes of an eccentric distant relative, who had bequeathed to him this rambling old house and all that appertains thereto."

"My relative was a keen collector of curiosities and all *objets d'art*. Would you care to see the museum?" he asked.

Eric and Terence readily expressed the pleasure it would afford them, and traversing one or two passages, entered a large room panelled in oak, containing a heterogeneous collection of curios and antiquities, which they examined with great interest.

"Your relative appears to have collected everything except stamps," said Eric.

"He collected stamps," retorted their kind friend. "Are you interested in Philately?"

"Yes," replied Eric, "we are both interested very much in stamps, but are as yet novices."

Their host thereupon extracted from a bookcase an old worn book containing some fine specimens of pence Ceylon and rare old Australians.

Eric and Terence looked through the collection with a sense of keen delight.

"It is not a great collection, I think," said their host.

The boys were unable to judge as to its value, but thought it must be worth a sovereign or two.

"It certainly contains specimens which neither of us possesses, doesn't it, Terry?" rejoined Eric.

Terence affirmed the fact with a nod of the head. And their host further proved his kindly nature by forcing the two friends to accept the stamps, which at first they reluctantly refused to do.

Evening had approached; a silver moon in an azure sky wrapped the earth in its mellow rays. It was, indeed, full time that the boys started for home; and with many expressions of thanks and appreciation of their host's kindness, they bade him good night, having first made a promise that they would pay another visit to the rambling old house.

They blessed the incident which had given them such a bright interlude in their walk. It was a distance of only three miles to their homes in Manning,

which they soon reached, and when they parted, decided to examine their new collection the following morning.

As Eric lay in bed that night, he thought of "The Princess" lying ill, and of the fond mother keeping her lonely vigil by the poor girl's bedside. He wished he could help them in some way, and revolved in his mind many impracticable schemes for so doing. "The collection," he muttered; "that would help. I'll ask Terence in the morning."

And Morpheus called him to his arms.

He did ask Terence the following morning whether he would object to selling the collection to help "The Princess." "I am sure our benefactor will not mind if we explain. We have decent collections and a deal of happiness; the poor 'Princess' has none," apologetically explained Eric.

Terence at once expressed his approval of such an action, and replied, "You're a good fellow, Eric."

Eric and Terence immediately posted the collection to their London dealer, asking him to send what he thought was a suitable price for it. "I must order your half-crown set at the same time," said Eric; and they both smiled.

They eagerly awaited every post, until one morning a letter arrived enclosing a cheque for £30. Their excitement was boundless; they capered about and waved their arms in glee.

"Our 'Princess' will get better now," said Eric.

"Yes," responded Terence; "but had we known the collection to be so valuable, we could not have accepted it, and it is too late now to return it."

That same day they posted anonymously bank notes to the value of £30 to "The Princess," together with a sympathetic note; and when some weeks later they called at Dick Lever's, they experienced far greater happiness in seeing the bloom of health once more on the cheeks of "The Princess" than in seeing those fine pence Ceylon and rare old Australians nestling in their respective albums.

"We can always add to our collections, can't we?" said Eric.

And Terence agreed.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Death of Mr. Thomas Bull

I AM sorry to see in the *P. J. of G. B.* an announcement of the death of Mr. Thomas Bull on 5 October, 1905. He held the first of the present-day stamp auctions in the metropolis. I well remember those early auctions, and the interest they aroused in philatelic circles.

But the writer of the obituary notice referred to, although evidently well posted in those happenings, is wrong in saying that the idea of the auctions was to kill the dealers with the sales. It was no secret at the time that they were started by a section of leading collectors who wanted to break down the monopoly of first choice of all desirable stamps which Mr. Tapling was then given by most of the dealers. They thought to attract all good stamps into these public sales, and so establish an equal chance for all buyers.

The late Mr. Thomas Bull was one of the most genial of all the stamp auctioneers we have had, and was himself a keen collector. Hence he enlivened his sales with pithy and interesting notes and comments on what he was selling.

Non-philatelic Auctioneers

It may amuse a few of my readers when I tell them that some of our so-called philatelic auctioneers of London are quite innocent of philatelic knowledge; they stick to the catalogue descriptions. But they slip occasionally. Once such an auctioneer put up a very great rarity. Some one said "Five." "Five, five, five, five shillings—seven, seven, seven shillings—eight——" Then some one considerably said, "We are bidding pounds, not shillings, Mr. Auctioneer."

One Too Many For Them

At another time the buyers, watching their opportunity, thought to get a young auctioneer into a corner. At the end of the sale there was a lot of philatelic books to be sold, and amongst them several German works with terribly long German jaw-breaking titles. The auctioneer put up the lots by number. "But what's it all about, Mr. Auctioneer? Will you read it out, please? We can't make

head or tail of it." He smiled and hesitated, and once more called the number of the lot. But they were not to be denied of their fun; they were going to get him to make a try at all events at the terrible German titles. They were doomed to disappointment, for, yielding to their demand, he read off the titles as fluently and correctly as a born German.

A Bit Too Simple

It is wonderful what simpletons some periodicals imagine their readers to be. Here's a cutting which has been sent me from a journal calling itself the *Pictoria Magazine*, or *Penny Pictorial*, I forge which, and it publishes an interview with a coin dealer, whose name is carefully withheld. This coin dealer has stuffed up the young man from the *Penny Pictorial* with the information that such lots of people are giving up stamp collecting for coin collecting—that, in fact, coin collecting is the popular form of collecting now. But he gives the whole show away when, to illustrate the availability of even old coins, he tells the young man that a certain Greek coin, 2000 years old, can be had for 1s. to 2s. If coin collecting is now so popular that it is taking the place of stamp collecting, how comes it that a coin 2000 years old, and one of the most popular class of old coins, goes a-begging for 1s. to 2s.?

Increasing Popularity of Stamp Collecting

As a matter of fact, this coin collector either knew no more about stamp collecting than any other ignoramus, or he was not above shady tricks; for never, despite bad trade, has stamp collecting been more popular than it is to-day. Never in the long history of stamp collecting have such long prices been paid for popular rarities at public auction as during the last two or three years, and already this year the record of prices promises to stretch to still greater lengths. Let our friend wait till May next, and then stroll down to our Exhibition, and if he does not give up coin dealing for stamp dealing it will not be for want of convincing facts.

SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR G. S. W. READERS

OUR Publishers propose to set apart this page for the offer of Special Bargains to "G. S. W." readers.

Foreign and Colonial readers will be supplied with these bargains if they despatch their orders within one week of receipt of the number containing the offer.

These special offers will be open for one week only from the date of the number in which they appear. After the expiration of a week the stamps will be supplied at the regular rates only, and, in the majority of cases, the Catalogue prices will be maintained, instead of being reduced, as hitherto, as the result of the purchase of bargain parcels.

OUR NINTH SPECIAL OFFER is as follows:—

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
SETS OF POSTAGE STAMPS
IS THE NOVA SCOTIA 1860 ISSUE



1 cent, black.



2 cents, lilac.



8½ cents, green.



10 cents, red.



12½ cents, black.

HAVE YOU THIS SET IN YOUR
COLLECTION?

If not, we now offer you the chance to get it at about half Catalogue price.

The set of five stamps, in mint state, with full gum, price 15s. post-free. (Catalogue price £1 5s.)

STANLEY GIBBONS, LTD.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

British Guiana.—The 6 c. is announced on the multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- 1 c., grey-green.
- 2 c., purple and black on red paper.
- 4 c., " blue.
- 5 c., " on blue paper.
- 6 c., grey-black and ultramarine.
- 12 c., purple and violet.
- 24 c., " green.
- 48 c., grey and chocolate.
- 60 c., green and carmine.

Danish West Indies.—*Provisionals.*—Our publishers send us three stamps of the "cents" currency altered into "bit" currency by a surcharge reading "5-BIT-1905," in three lines. The stamps thus surcharged are the 4 cents of 1898-1901 and the 5 c. and 8 c. of 1900-3.



Provisionals.

Surcharged on issues of 1898-1901 and 1900-3:

- " 5 bit 1905" on 4 c., blue and brown.
- " " on 5 c., blue.
- " " on 8 c., brown.

Gibraltar.—The King's Heads on the multiple CA paper come slowly from this colony, though it was one of the first to start on the new paper. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* announces the 1s. just received, which makes five values in all with the new watermark.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., green.
- 1d., purple on red paper.
- 2d., green and carmine.
- 1s., black and rose.
- 2s., green and blue.

Gold Coast.—The 3d. value has been received on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- 1d., purple and carmine.
- 2d., " orange-red.
- 3d., " orange.

Lagos.—We have received the 2½d. value on multiple CA paper, thus completing the series.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., dull green and green.
- 1d., purple and black on red paper.
- 2d., " blue.
- 2½d., " blue on blue paper.
- 3d., " red.
- 6d., " mauve.
- 1s., green and black.
- 2s. 6d., " carmine.
- 5s., " blue.
- 10s., " brown.

Natal.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* chronicles the 1s. value on multiple paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., light green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 4d., carmine and cinnamon.
- 1s., blue and rose.
- 2s. 6d., purple.

Roumania.—Messrs. Bright and Son send us the 1 bani of the current series changed in colour from pale brown to black.



Change of colour.

- 1 bani, black.

MISCELLANEOUS

Important Exchange Club Case

LEGAL point of much interest to members and secretaries of philatelic exchange clubs was involved in the Leicester County Court case of the Stafford Philatelic Exchange Society *v.* G. V. Wesselhought, a gentleman of private means, living in Mansfield Road, Nottingham. It was an action to recover £6. 19s. 3d., the value of certain stamps sent to defendant in the course of exchange.

Mr. Squires, who appeared for the plaintiffs, explained the procedure adopted by the County of Stafford Exchange Society, which circulated sheets of priced and numbered foreign stamps among the members, who on taking stamps from the sheets placed their initials on the blank spaces left. Members neglecting to inform the secretary of missing stamps were held responsible for their value. Defendant received the stamps on March 30th, when evidence would be given that they were in proper order. Defendant wrote stating that he had taken 1s. 7d. worth of stamps, and stating that some stamps appeared to be missing, but he did not comply with the rules by notifying the member who forwarded the stamps to him, nor did he give full particulars as to the number missing, stating that he noticed six or seven, but he could not remember exactly.

Thomas Benjamin Widdowson, of Leicester, the secretary of the society, bore out Mr. Squires' statement, and said the packet in question sent round to the members was valued at £225, and was sent from member to member by registered post. Post cards were enclosed in it for every third member to send to the secretary stating the value of the stamps taken. This was chiefly for the purpose of showing the packet was safe. When he got the sheets back, which he did as soon as possible, he found that not only were separate stamps gone, but half a sheet, containing stamps valued £3. 10s. 3d., was also missing. All the members up to the defendant stated that the stamps were in proper order when sent on by them. In cross-examination witness admitted that defendant had bought stamps previously, and had paid for them.

John Collier, bookseller and stationer, of Leamington, who was the last member to inspect the parcel before defendant had it, stated that there were no uninitialled spaces when the parcel left his possession.

Mr. Wallis, counsel for the defence, submitted that defendant had acted quite as any honourable man would, though he had not perhaps adhered exactly to the rules, and he contended that the evidence was not by any means sufficient to place the responsibility on the defendant.

Defendant stated that he had been a member of the society for two years, and previously was a member of the Yorkshire Stamp Club, which amalgamated with the Staffordshire Society. When he received this packet of stamps he noticed that there were several places marked only with a tick, and not an initial.

His Honour: Did that strike you as unusual?—Witness: Not at the time.

Continuing, witness said he had not had one of the stamps that were missing, and did not in fact know what they were. He believed that, except for the stamps he admitted having had, the packet left his possession in the same state as he received it.

Cross-examined, defendant admitted that he had not yet paid the 2s. 7d. for the stamps he admitted he had kept. He also admitted that the packet was kept on a table in the drawing-room, where other people in the house might have had access to them.

His Honour said he was satisfied that the packet arrived safely at the defendant's house, and he was responsible for the safety of it while with him. What he was responsible for, however, had been really decided by his own admission. He found for the plaintiffs for the sum of £5. os. 7d.

Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

Stamp Portrait Collecting

ANOTHER way of forming a valuable collection from the intellectual standpoint would be to subscribe to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, which is publishing a biographical stamp portrait series. Purchase a blank album of suitable size, and neatly mount the pages or portions of pages devoted to the subject, cut out the pictures carefully, and place the genuine stamps in the vacant places. As the article continues you will certainly have a very valuable and interesting book which will be enjoyed by all lovers of biography. Portraits for stamps are usually selected with great care, and the engraving executed by the best artists in the country. To those unacquainted with such work a little experimenting may be necessary, but any careful person will soon become an adept. First cut the pages apart, and then cover the back with a coating of gum arabic; when dry, if wrinkled, smooth out with an ordinary flat iron, then trim to the desired size with knife and ruler, then cut out the portraits, leaving a good margin all around. Slightly dampen the page and place in position; last of all insert the stamps in the squares left for that purpose. As the new subjects are only obtainable once a week it can never become a tax on your purse, or a labour taking up much of your time, while you will see a beautiful and interesting book growing under your hands which in time will certainly become valuable.

The Metropolitan Philatelist, New York.

Machine Postmarking: a Warning

It seems that modern postmarking may prove a source of danger to the stamps enclosed in a letter, and not only to the specimens actually stuck on the envelope. Mr. W. H. Earl draws our attention to the new peril by sending us a letter despatched to him from London and postmarked with one of the new machine obliterators. The needles or sharp points forming a part of the postmarking mechanism have penetrated through the envelope and also through some documents enclosed—thirteen thick-nesses in all. "Supposing," comments Mr. Earl, "this had been a letter containing a consignment of scarce stamps, and that some great rarity had been punctured like this! Its value as a perfect specimen would be utterly destroyed!" Exactly. We heartily endorse the advice with which our correspondent concludes his letter, namely, that philatelists sending valuable stamps through the post would be wise to protect them with a slip of fairly stout card.

Stamp Collector's Fortnightly.

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

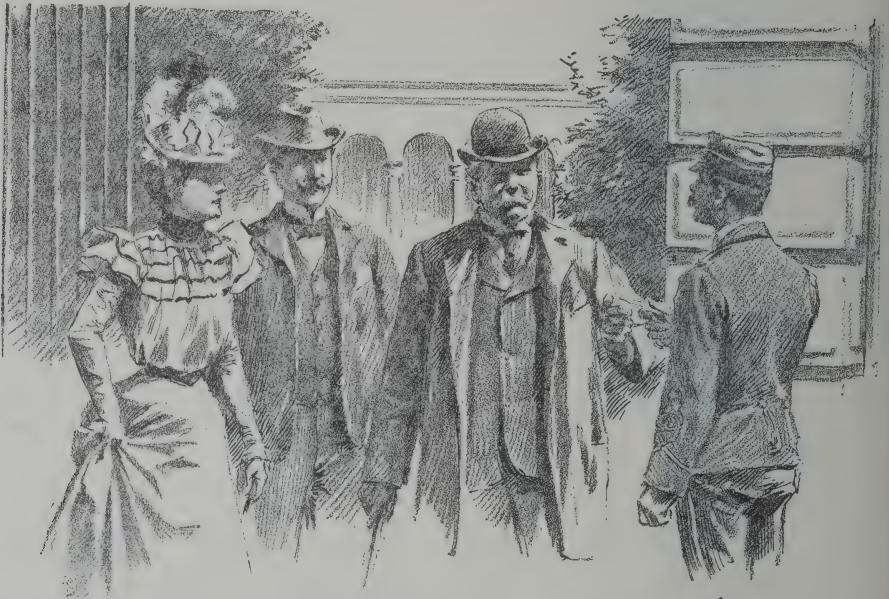
Packet No. 69, 2000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



A POLICEMAN HANDED HIM A TELEGRAM

CHAPTER XXIV (continued)

Wherein William and Betty, after having been robbed, narrowly escape being taken for the robbers

IN recognition, no doubt, of the principle that a certain amount of wealth renders virtue an easy matter, Signor Petto, in common with many others, could not possibly believe in the guilt of rich people. He indemnified himself for this weakness on the poor, who had a very bad time when they fell into his hands. What innocence then these happy mortals could boast, possessing between them five hundred million lire! The change in his behaviour was by no means gradual, the ingenuous functionary having no false pride in the matter.

"Forgive me," he said, with his former bland smile, "and pray do not blame me for the way in which I felt obliged to act this morning."

"Oh, certainly!" said William. "But another time do pray put back in their places the things you do not want."

Signor Petto laughed a little constrainedly at this remark, and cringingly conducted his visitors to the foot of the staircase, whence the two Americans, after thanking the Consul for his opportune intervention on their behalf, went to dine at the Café d'Europe, on the Square of St. Ferdinand, delighting in the impromptu repast served on a little table in the midst of the buzzing crowd.

"Well," said William, after contemplating the lively scene before him, and raising his voice that he might be heard above the tumult, "I should not mind

betting anything that that idiot of a chief of police will never catch our thief."

"Very likely not," said Betty, shaking her head.

"Then we have nothing to do but to go back."

"Oh, no! As we are here let us wait a few days longer. Some accident may cause his arrest. And then, the stamp being lost, or as good as lost, it would be a shame to leave this lovely country without seeing more of it. Goodness only knows when we shall have another chance."

William agreed to follow this advice, and guide book and map being at hand, like the precise Americans they were, they began at once to arrange their plans.

This was the evening of Thursday, the 21st of May. "To-morrow, then," said William, "we will go to the Camaldules, Pozzuoli, Cumae, Baiae, and Procida the day after, Saturday, we will explore Ischia and return to Naples; Sunday morning we will see Pompeii; at four o'clock we will come back and pay our farewell visit to the Prince, and at 10.45 in the evening start for Rome. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday study Rome; Thursday morning at 9.10 depart for Paris, where we shall arrive on Friday, the 29th of May, at ten o'clock in the evening, just in time to catch the *Normandie* at Havre at eleven the next morning."

"Lovely!" cried Betty. "That will be employing our time well, and I haven't the least objection to make."

This plan was carried out in detail.

Being millionaires they had carriages and boats

ways at their disposal; horses waiting for them at difficult passes; meals, ordered beforehand, served at the moment they appeared. So they were enabled to fulfil the whole of their programme without fatigue or weariness.

The first day they rode on horseback to the Camaldulesse monastery overlooking Naples, the view from which is certainly the finest in all Italy, and that is saying great deal. Thence stolid mules carried them down to Pianura, and brought them to Astroni, the royal ark planted so curiously in the midst of a vast extinct volcano. A landau took them up from this point and arrived them to Pozzuoli, by the dried Lake of Agnano and the Grotto del Cane, celebrated for its carbonic acid vapours.

At Pozzuoli (the ancient Greek town, formerly called Dikéarchia) they saw the old Roman mole, the temple of Serapis, by turns plunged into the sea and brought again to the light of day by volcanic action; the amphitheatre, one of the most perfect known; and the Solfatara, a miniature volcano, still sending forth sulphurous gases.

Thence, continuing their route, they passed on to the foot of Monte Nuovo, which rose out of the earth during an eruption in 1538; round by the Lake of vernus, whose solitary shores still retain something of the infernal character given them by the ancients; then to the ruins of Baia, the seat of elegance and luxury in the time of Cicero and the Emperors; and Misenum, whose old harbour, formed by Agrippa, almost unrecognisable, but whose many antiquities, the Piscina Mirabilis, for example, are sufficiently well preserved to tell of its ancient grandeur. They added this well-filled day at Procida and Ischia, where a special boat was to meet them, whereon they spent the night.

Saturday was passed on the larger island in visiting the scene of the terrible earthquake of 1883, and in ascending Monte Epomeo, whose summit rises to a height of more than 800 yards.

On Sunday there were the marvels of Pompeii, that town brought once more to the light after being buried for eighteen centuries. They wandered all over the ruins, which are so full of eloquence that the catastrophe seemed to have but just happened, and they could almost hear the convulsive groans of the victims of the eruption of 79—whose bodies, lying about in every direction, were preserved in ghastly completeness by the ashes.

But the third day came to an end, and William and Betty, punctual like all true citizens of the Union, took the train for Paussilippe, that they might take leave of Prince Albrandi.

"What do you want?" was the brutal question of the first domestic to whom they applied.

"To see Prince Albrandi."

"Pooh! he has other fish to fry."

Astounded at such language and such a reception, William and Betty did not know what to do, or whether to press the matter. But as they were starting that very evening they thought it better to make one last effort to see the Prince and thank him for his gracious reception.

"Your pardon if we are importunate," returned William, his affected politeness contrasting with the rough tone of the valet. "We are leaving Naples to-day and are very desirous of being received by your master. Kindly have this card sent in to him."

The servant cast a disdainful glance on the piece of cardboard, and holding it out to one of his comrades, who was marching along at the end of the entrance hall, said—

"Here, Antonino, take this to the patron and tell him the people are here."

Then he turned his back on them.

Presently the second valet reappeared.

"You can come in," he shouted from the end of the passage.

They advanced and, following their conductor,

were taken into a large room used as a waiting-room, round which several people were seated. These persons were talking together in an excited fashion, and the two Americans, who knew enough Italian to understand it, were not a little surprised at the snatches of conversation which they caught.

"It had to come; this has lasted for ten years."

"Ah! no doubt it could be easily foreseen."

"As for me, I won't wait any longer. He shall pay or I'll have him sold up."

"When you think of such a waste! I'll wait no longer myself. Why, in three years he has bought from me sixteen hundred and thirty-four lire worth of trouser-braces alone!"

"And he owes me, for the two years that he has paid nothing, a hundred and twenty thousand lire for bread."

"And me, eighteen hundred lire for blotting-paper."

"And me, twenty-five thousand lire for sponges and tooth-brushes."

"It's horrible! We really can't wait any longer!"

"No! and we won't!"

At this moment a door opened, and the Prince himself appeared showing out a visitor, who was saying in an arrogant tone—

"You quite understand? You pay for my fireworks in less than a week or I have you sold up."

"You charge me three times their value," said the Prince wearily.

"Not a bit of it. At eighty thousand lire they are given away."

"Given!"

But perceiving William and Betty the Prince blushed, got rid of his creditor, and motioned to them to come in.

"We were here first," cried the others with one voice.

"One instant, just one instant, I pray you," said the Prince almost supplicatingly. "This lady and gentleman will not detain me a minute."

And as they continued their protestations he closed the door of his study, leaving himself alone with the two young people.

"Excuse me for receiving you in the midst of this crowd," said he. "It is settling up day to-day, and I am in the habit of receiving my tradespeople myself."

This was said with a painfully constrained smile, and it was clear that his indifference was a very superficial one. Betty, observing this, was suddenly struck with an idea, which seemed to her a brilliant one, for it had the double advantage of being decidedly profitable to the Prince, and eventually also to herself.

But she would not announce it at once, lest he should think she had come on purpose. She let the conversation pass through its usual banalities, spoke of their recent excursions, and of the wonders of the neighbourhood; and then, when the subject began to lose its interest, she suddenly asked—

"Well, Prince, and what news have you of the stamp?"

"Alas, Miss Scott! I am greatly afraid that I shall never find it again."

The Prince spoke with profound melancholy, in which might be traced his bitter regret at not having received for this little scrap of paper the two hundred thousand lire which Betty had offered a few days earlier, and which would have paid off the most pressing of his debts.

"Well, I am less pessimistic than you are," returned the young girl, "and have not lost all hope. In fact, so little have I lost hope that my offer still holds good, if you care to sell it."

The Prince made a sudden movement at these words, and the light of desire appeared in his eyes.

"But how can I sell a thing which is no longer in my possession?" he asked.

"Nothing is easier, Prince, in the way I mean."

"Please explain!" said the Prince quickly, the hope of such a windfall returning in force.

But William had caught at Betty's plot, and it was he who hastened to reply.

"Prince," said he, "it is very true that you have not the stamp, but it may be found again, and all the more probably, because the thief will want to make as much as he can out of it. Now for this he would have to sell it to some big collector, who will hasten to make his find public. People will know, I shall hear of it, and you see what follows. So I will buy of you, not the stamp, as you haven't it, but the proprietorship of the stamp, or, if you prefer it, the right to reclaim it if it is found again, a right which belongs to you, naturally."

"Ah! but permit me," protested Betty, "this is my offer, and I ought to have the priority."

"Let us say that our offers are simultaneous," said William in a conciliating tone. "Neither of us has any wish to wrong the other. So let us conclude the bargain with the Prince, each on our own account, and thus acquire equal rights."

"But to sell the same thing at the same time to two different purchasers is somewhat unusual!" said Albrandi.

"What does it matter if we both consent?" cried Betty, beguiled by the prospect of a fresh contest between herself and her fellow-philatelist.

The discussion was here interrupted by the free and easy entrance of the chief of police, who, annoyed as he was at finding William and Betty there, would not allow himself to show it, but greeted them effusively.

"Well, is the pretended boyard in custody?" asked the Prince.

"No, but very near it. They are shadowing him. He has gone by train to Brindisi this morning to catch the *Orient*, and I shall have a telegram before the evening is over informing me of his arrest."

"But if they are shadowing him, why in the world didn't they catch him before he got into the train?" cried William impatiently.

"Very true," said the Prince.

"And obvious," supported Betty.

Signor Petto shook his head intelligently several times, and said with a mysterious gesture—

"You cannot understand?"

"No, I give it up," said William, shrugging his shoulders imperceptibly.

Then, in a few words, they informed the new-comer of the bargain about to be struck. He could not grasp the idea at first, and begged for further enlightenment.

"So now it is you who cannot understand," said William, laughing. "Well, listen. This stamp, which has disappeared, may be recovered."

"Naturally, since you have been told the thief is to be arrested this evening."

"Let us be prepared for the worst," said the sceptical American, "and suppose the capture put off for a few hours—a few days—a few months."

"That cannot be."

"Well, in a few months—a few years——"

"You are jesting?"

"Not at all. Moreover, if you do arrest the thief, he may not have the stamp in his possession."

"Well, then?"

"Then we will both—Miss Scott and I—buy from Prince Albrandi the right of calling ourselves its legitimate owners if it is found, and if not the right of searching for it by any means in our power."

"But you will both purchase the same right, and that is not possible."

"That is our private business, Miss Betty's and mine, to be arranged between us."

"And what price will you give?" asked the chief curiously.

"A hundred thousand francs each, money down. 'It's perfectly absurd! You must be a couple of fools!'"

The Prince threw a crushing glance at Signor Petto, and said drily—

"Sir, you will oblige me by not expressing an opinion upon a matter which does not concern you."

"Fools or not," said Betty, rejoicing in a little innocent revenge on the poor chief, "we conclude the bargain of our own free will, and I assure you will not give you any cause for searching our portmanteaus a second time."

The officer struck his flag without more words, and William began again.

"You have not told us yet, Prince, whether you accept our proposal."

Albrandi felt he ought to show some reluctance though he greatly feared it might be taken seriously.

"In point of fact," he said, "I do not know if it would be right for me to——"

"What, Prince!" cried Betty. "Not when you offer it? When we beseech you to take it? You have no responsibility at all in the matter."

"Well, since you really wish it——"

And the Prince immediately drew up two identical receipts for a hundred thousand francs each, by the terms of which he ceded the full and entire proprietorship of the Brahmapootra stamp, in whatever place it might be found, to Mr. William Keniss and to Miss Betty Scott; engaging, in addition, to let them know at once if he heard any news of it, and to forward it on to them if it should be returned to him. In exchange for these two documents William and Betty handed the Prince two cheques for a hundred thousand francs each, on the Neapolitan banker, Meuricoffre, with whom they had, since the previous evening, opened an account through their New York bank.

This accomplished, the two Americans retired—after mutual thanks, endless polite speeches, and prolonged farewells—in company with the chief of police, who was returning to the Municipio to wait for the despatch announcing the capture of Tilbury-Spartivento-Orsikoff. But he had not the trouble of going so far, for scarcely had he left the palace when a policeman, who had been sent in search of him, handed him a telegram, which he immediately opened.

"Is he arrested?" asked William, slyly.

"No, not exactly," returned Signor Petto, in an embarrassed tone. "He was not to be found in the train when it arrived at Brindisi. But the men tell me they are quite certain of apprehending him tomorrow morning."

The two young people smiled at each other, and the chief saw how little credit, and with reason, they gave to his words.

"Well, good luck!" said they. And with this the three parted. Signor Petto went on his way, and the other two returned to the Grand Hotel to dine.

"We've done a good day's work, in my opinion," said William.

"You think so?"

"Well, don't you? Here we are the legitimate possessors——"

"Of an object which we haven't got——"

"But which we may recover——"

"By Easter!"

"Yes, or Trinity Sunday!"

This reflection highly amused the two philatelists, though it left them a little thoughtful. They could not, in fact, help reflecting on the time they had lost and the trouble of all sorts they had brought upon themselves during a journey so long, so stirring, and—it must be confessed—so fruitless.

(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Glasgow and West of Scotland Philatelic Society

THE first meeting of session 1905-6 was held in the Religious Institution Rooms, Glasgow, on the evening of Friday, 20 October, when the President, Mr. Guybon Hutson, gave a display of stamps from his collection, which numbers 34,000 varieties, and is understood to be the finest in Scotland. The President prefaced his display by an address on many matters of interest to philatelists. He explained that he had been thirty-seven years steadily putting his collection together, and was not conscious of ever interfering with anything not a duplicate, but that he had found the new issues accumulating at such a pace, that in order to get the older issues more nearly complete he had decided to put a point to his collection at the end of the nineteenth century, so that he had nothing in it issued after the year 1900, nor had he any "Post Office" Mauritius, but the members present seemed to think he must have practically everything else.

He expressed his preference in point of interest for any of the less-known foreign countries, examples of which he gave, and particularly of those of which rarities were prolific, as against the comparative commonness of the rank and file of British Colonials, and said he did not regard a collection of the stamps of any country as complete without the envelope stamps, and square for preference, so that only one copy of each stamp need appear. He contrasted the difficulties under which the "old collector laboured, compared with the new," touched upon the questions of used *v.* unused, shades and condition, and condemned what he called the over-cataloguing of recent years, which, he said, had sickened many good philatelists. He gave illustrations of difficult varieties of paper, and expressed the opinion that stamp collecting could have been a better hobby if the perforation gauge had never been heard of. One night, he said, he gave the desire to collect stamps without feeling inclined to spend his days with a perforation gauge, in the absence of which the question of how to limit, what to collect, or what to throw overboard to lighten the ship could have been indefinitely postponed. Philately, like "misery," he said, "acquainted a man with many strange bedfellows"; and he spoke somewhat feelingly of the many attempts to palm off things that were not what they seemed, and suggested that the Society should become in effect a Philatelic Protection Society, so that none of its members need buy anything that was not what he supposed it to be.

Dr. Rees Price, one of the Vice-Presidents, followed with some appreciative remarks, and on his motion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the President by the large representation of members present for the treat he had given them. Ten new members were duly elected at the meeting.

MARC CALDER, *Secretary*.

86, BYARS ROAD, HILLHEAD,
GLASGOW.

Leeds Philatelic Society.

President : E. Egly, Arncliffe Road, West Park, Leeds.

Secretary : Charles W. Harding, 139, Belle Vue Road, Leeds.

Meetings : Leeds Institute, Cookridge Street, Leeds.

Annual Subscription : 5s. ; *Entrance Fee*, 2s. 6d.

THE second fortnightly meeting of the new session was held in the Society's room at the Leeds Institute on Tuesday the 17th instant, when there was a display of South African stamps by the members, of whom a large number and some visitors were present.

The countries represented included the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, Cape Colony, and British South and Central Africa, and the collections that were shown are conclusive evidence of the growing popularity of these fine stamps. Notes on the various issues were read, those relating to the Transvaal and the New Republic being taken in hand by the President, Mr. E. Egly, whilst those on Cape Colony and the Orange Free State were "dispensed" in an equally interesting and instructive manner by Mr. J. H. Thackrah. To the specialist in particular the issues of the late Boer Republic offer an almost limitless field of study and research, new varieties of the earlier issues being constantly brought to light. Is not this also a country that reminds us forcibly, alas! of "missed opportunities"? Its rare stamps of to-day could be had but a few years back for as many shillings as in many instances they now cost pounds!

Several novelties were shown of an interesting nature, and Messrs. W. M. Gray and A. H. Stamford of Bradford, and Mr. D. W. Morten of Leeds, also four other gentlemen, were elected members of the Society.

Any information as to terms of membership, etc., may be obtained on application to the Hon. Sec., Mr. Chas. W. Harding, 139, Belle Vue Road, Leeds.

The Junior Philatelic Society

President : Fred J. Melville.

Secretary : H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings : Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription : 1s. 6d.

THE splendid attendance at the opening meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society for this season was quite eclipsed by that at the second meeting, when nearly 200 members were present during the four and a half hours the hall was open.

Exchange was brisk, and, as usual, some interesting incidents occurred. An official spied a stamp in a young collector's book marked 1d., and told him it was well worth 2s. 6d., and he should get that amount in exchange for it. Unable (apparently) to realize his good fortune, the youth raised the price only to 1s., whereupon the official mentioned the stamp to an ordinary member of the Society, who promptly secured it.

Noticeable among the members attending this meeting on Nelson day were many provincial members. The Trafalgar enthusiasm ran high, but only in one case was it responsible for an absentee. One of the oldest "juniors" handed in his card, on which this message was conveyed to the President: "Sorry not to hear your Nelsonian remarks, but am tired out after properly observing 'Trafalgar Day.'" We have no means of stating the particular form this "proper observance" took.

At 8 p.m., after the minutes had been read and acknowledgments passed to the donors of gifts to the Library, Permanent Collection, and Forgery Collection, the President read a carefully prepared paper entitled "Notes on the Posts and Post-roads of Nelson's Time," in which, by means of contemporary letters, manuscripts, and pamphlets, he gave a very clear and concise account of the state of the postal service at home and the "packet" service abroad. Various letters and drawings were exhibited to illustrate the paper. On the motion of Mr. L. Savournin, a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the reader of the paper by acclamation.

Mr. R. Halliday then read a valuable paper on

"The Electric and International: a talk about British Telegraph Companies and Their Stamps." This paper, which presented an exhaustive history of the stamps in question, was illustrated by a small display.

On the motion of the Chairman, Mr. Halliday received the thanks of the meeting.

The final item on the programme for the evening was a pleasant little display of Cape Colony by Mr. Ernest Heginbottom, B.A. Mr. Melville proposed, and Mr. R. Shepherd seconded, the vote of thanks which was accorded enthusiastically to Mr. Heginbottom for his display.

The members elected were seventeen in number, including two life members. Owing to the repeated complaints from recently elected members as to these published lists being used for repeated circularizing, the Committee has decided to refrain from giving even the towns in which the new members reside.

The Rev. Sir G. R. Fetherston, Bart.; Chas. Let (life members). Henry Alsop, R. W. Harold Row Miss E. Howard, J. L. Eastwood, Mrs. Baile, Wm. E. Ault, R. J. Readhead, G. A. Jarman, Vince Smith, Hugh Rodger Doig, F. C. Hyland, L. I Selfe, Oswald Challis, Miss M. E. Ackerley, L. Hara Kjelstedt.

It was announced that the Society's new publication, *The Stamps of the United States*, would be ready early in November, and orders for it at the advance subscription rate of 1s. 1d. post-free should be sent without further delay, or they will be charged 1s. 7d. post free on and after date of publication.

All communications respecting the book, and applications for membership, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, London, S.W.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I, all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in any cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

NOVEMBER, 1905

14. Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society: Display, at Dunorlan, Panbury Road, Tunbridge Wells, at 3 p.m.
- 14 & 15. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
15. Enterprise Philatelic Society: General Display by Members. British Colonial King's Heads. Display with Notes—Barbados. E. Heginbottom, B.A., with Display of the Society's Collection of Forgeries, Reprints, and Bogus Issues, with Notes by the Hon. Counterfeit Detector. General Sale and Exchange.
16. Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society. Dominica, Grenada, and Jamaica.
- 16 & 17. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
17. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Dominica and Jamaica, opened by J. S. Gee.
18. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; 6 p.m. Paper and display—Colombia, Republic and States; A. H. L. Giles, R.N.; 8 p.m. Display—African Colonies II, Gambia and Gold Coast; 9 p.m.
20. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—Collecting as a Hobby, opened by J. Hughes. Displays of British Bechuanaland and Panama.
21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—British Guiana, with Notes by J. H. Thackrah.
- Herts Philatelic Society: Display of West Australia, with Notes by L. L. R. Hausburg.
- 23 & 24. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Display of Orange Free State, with Notes by W. D. Beckton.
- London Philatelic Society: Mr. B. D. Knox. A Paper entitled "The Malta Local Post and its Stamps," with Display.
- 28 & 29. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
- Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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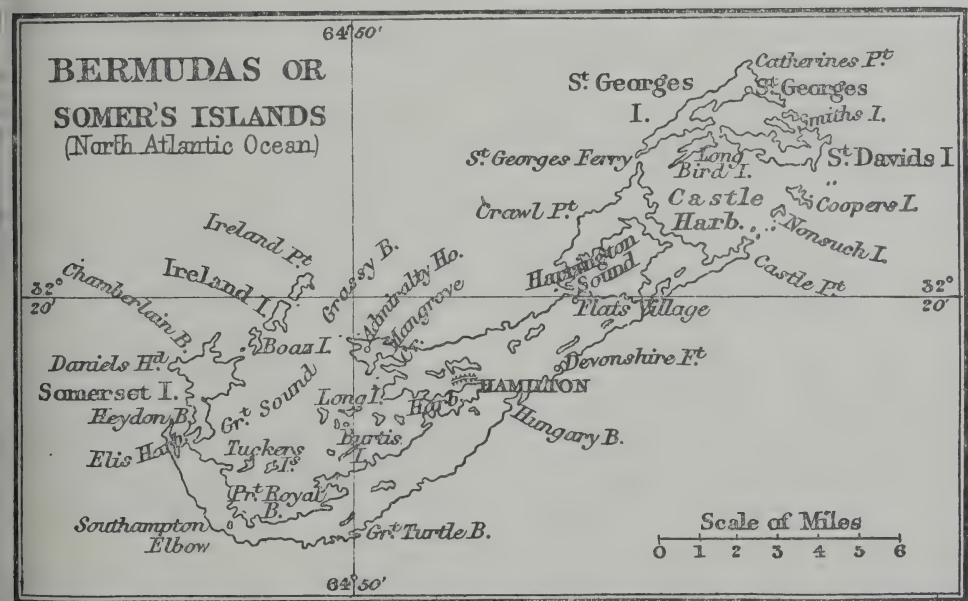
18 NOVEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Bermudas



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Bartholomew, Edin^g

THE Bermuda Islands stand well out into the Atlantic, six hundred miles from the coast of North Carolina. Strictly speaking, they are not geographically a part of the West Indian archipelago, but they are, for convenience' sake, generally classed with that group. The islands, which are of coral formation, have a

length of about twenty miles and a width of five miles. They are surrounded by what is termed a growing reef, through which a few more or less intricate channels admit vessels. On the main island is Hamilton, the capital and seat of government, a town with a population of 1300. The total population of the islands in

1901 was 17,535, including 6000 whites and 9000 coloured persons.

The group was discovered in 1522 by a Spaniard named Juan Bermudez, who was shipwrecked there on his way from Spain to Cuba. In 1609 Sir George Somers, an English admiral, was also shipwrecked on the islands, which were as a consequence given the name of Somers' Islands, but this second name is now rarely used. In 1612 the islands settled down as an English possession, being mainly colonized from Virginia.

Strategically, the islands are of considerable importance, for the harbour of St. George's is said to be able to accommodate the whole of the British navy.

Their Philatelic History

From the philatelic point of view Bermuda is a fairly inexpensive country, except for a small group of provisionals. The colony did not commence the issue of postage stamps till 1865, and of its first series of five values only the 3d. can be considered as at all scarce. They were all watermarked Crown CC and comprised stamps of the value of 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1s.

In 1874 and 1875 there was an outcrop of provisionals. A supply of 3d. stamps was provided by surcharging the 1d. and 1s. values with the words THREE PENCE. Then in the following year there were provisionals of the 1d. value, 2d., 3d., and 1s. stamps being converted into 1d. stamps by a surcharge of "One Penny." In 1880 two new values, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 4d., were added, still watermarked CC. Then in 1884-93 followed the CA series of Queen's Heads, several of which are still current. In 1901 a one farthing stamp was provided by surcharging the 1s. with the words ONE FARTHING; and last, and still current, we have what is termed the Dock design.

1865. This first issue consisted of five values at 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. They were engraved and printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. on paper watermarked Crown CC, and were perforated 14. As will be seen from the following list, all but the 3d. of this first issue may still be had at reasonably low prices. The 6d. of the series is still current; hence its low catalogue price.



Wmk. Crown CC. Perf.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------|---|---------|-------|
| | | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., rose-red | . | 2 6 | 0 4 |
| 2d., blue | . | 3 0 | 3 0 |
| 3d., yellow (1873) | . | 15 0 | 10 0 |
| 6d., mauve | . | 0 8 | 0 6 |
| 1s., cream | . | 7 6 | 1 6 |

1874. Provisional.—The 3d., which for cataloguing and grouping purposes has been included in the preceding first series, was not issued till 1873. It was provided for payment of the then single rate of postage between Bermuda and British North America. The first supply of 9800 which reached the colony in March, 1873, was exhausted by February of the following year, and a provisional issue became necessary. Hence the following Government minute: "1874. February 21. The Council approve of the issue of a portion of the redundant *One Shilling* postage stamps in store as *Threepenny* stamps, with a distinct crossing of 'three' or '3d.' if possible of a different coloured ink." Consequently some 13,500 of the "redundant" shillings were surcharged with the words THREE PENCE. This surcharge was printed diagonally on each stamp, in black ink, from the left bottom to the right top corner. There were two varieties of this surcharge, one in fancy italic capitals shaded, and the other in ordinary Roman capitals.

THREE PENCE*Provisional.*

In fancy italic shaded capitals.

| | Unused. | | Used. | |
|-------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 3d. on 1s., green . . . | 40 | 0 | 30 | 0 |

In Roman capitals.

| | s. | | s. | |
|-------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| | d. | | d. | |
| 3d. on 1s., green . . . | 50 | 0 | 30 | 0 |

1875. *Provisionals.*—In this year a shortage of 1d. stamps was tided over by surcharging 2d., 3d., and 1s. stamps with the first issue with the words "One Penny" in two lines. The total numbers issued of these provisionals were as follows:—

| |
|-----------------------------|
| 1d. on 2d., blue, 4800. |
| 1d. on 3d., yellow, 12,000. |
| 1d. on 1s., green, 23,500. |

One Penny.*Provisionals.*

"One Penny" in capitals and small letters.

| | Unused. | | Used. | |
|--------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1d. on 2d., blue . . . | 40 | 0 | 30 | 0 |
| 1d. on 3d., yellow . . . | 15 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 1d. on 1s., green . . . | 12 | 6 | 12 | 6 |

1880. In this year two new values, 1d. and 4d., were added, both watermarked Crown CC. These two stamps were the last printed on the Crown CC paper, unless indeed we except the still current first issue 6d., of which presumably printings are still being made, unless a very "redundant" stock is being worked off.

*Wmk. Crown CC. Perf.*

| | Unused. | | Used. | |
|-----------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| ½d., stone . . . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 4d., orange-red . . . | 0 | 8 | 0 | 6 |

1884-93. We now come to the last and still partially current Queen's Heads, 1d. watermarked Crown CA. A new value of 2½d., to meet the requirements of the Postal Union, is added. The ½d. of the previous issue is changed in colour from stone to dull green; the 1d. appears first in dull rose (now getting scarce) and

carmine; the 2d. was first printed in the old colour of blue, and was then changed to violet-brown to avoid clashing with the Postal Union 2½d., blue; the 3d. was changed from yellow to grey, and the 1s. from green to yellow-brown.

*Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.*

| | Unused. | | Used. | |
|--------------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| ½d., dull green . . . | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 1d., rose-red . . . | 2 | 6 | 0 | 4 |
| 1d., carmine . . . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 2d., blue (1886) . . . | 1 | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| 2d., violet-brown (1893) . . . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2½d., ultramarine . . . | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2 |
| 3d., grey (1886) . . . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| 1s., yellow-brown (1893) . . . | 1 | 4 | 1 | 4 |

1901. *Provisional.* The following account of the issue of the One Farthing provisional of this year was supplied to the *Monthly Journal* at the time by a correspondent in the colony: "It appears that an Act was passed last year under which an inland rate of ¼d. per two ounces is to be levied on newspapers which have hitherto been conveyed free. As it was desired to bring this into force from 1 January, there was no time to get a new plate prepared, and a telegram was sent home requesting that a supply might be printed from the 1s. plate in grey, and overprinted ONE FARTHING. Owing to delay of the steamer, the stamps did not arrive till 10 January; they were put on sale on the 11th, with the result that all were bought up by speculators within twenty-four hours, and, until a fresh lot can be obtained, the newspapers have to pass free as before! The Post Office loses nothing, of course, as many more stamps have been sold than were at all likely to be used upon newspapers, and we suspect that the subscribers to the papers will be the principal gainers. From 4d. to 6d. each was being asked for the stamps on the spot, but as the supply was some £200 worth, or 192,000 stamps in all, the fortunate (?) purchasers will be glad to unload at very much less than that before long."

The *Monthly Circular* of a later date

stated that there were £250 worth of the provisional put on sale, and that £235 worth were purchased by three speculators, who endeavoured to gull stamp collectors into the belief that these stamps would be of great value.

It is to be hoped that the three speculators burnt their fingers badly. At all events they have not succeeded in maintaining a premium price against collectors. Copies are plentiful to-day, and are likely to remain so for many years. Presumably there was a second supply, for no permanent stamp of ¼d. has yet been issued.

ONE FARTHING

Provisional.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| ¼d. on rs. grey | 0 1 | 0 1 |

1902-4. Bermuda is very proud of its splendid harbours, and of its great floating dock, which is said to be one of the finest in the world, measuring 545 feet in length with a floating capacity of 16,500 tons. This dock the colony has placed

upon its latest stamps as a central design of a new issue, of which we have had the ½d., 1d., and 3d. values, with, presumably, other values to follow as the Queen's Heads are exhausted.



Dock design.

Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., green, centre black | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 1d., carmine, centre black | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 3d., sage-green, centre magenta | 0 5 | — |

1904. Last year we had a surprising issue in the shape of the old 4d. of 1888 watermarked Crown C.A.

Old design.

Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 4d., orange-red | 0 6 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages Spaces for 4700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Note brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

STAMP COLLECTING AS AN INVESTMENT FOR BEGINNERS

by CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

OUR worthy editor has asked me to write a short article on the above subject. It is one that I have already written about in the *Monthly Journal* for May, 1903, but Mr. Nankivell thinks that a large proportion of the readers of our American Special Number of *G.S.W.* will not have seen my previous notes in the *M.J.*, and that the subject might be written up from the point of view of the young collector—not necessarily young in years, but young to our hobby.

I thoroughly believe that in all kinds of collecting—in coins, stamps, prints, books, etc.—money can be made *eventually* by those who care to give time and study to their hobby, and I am sure that this applies in a marked degree to stamp collecting.

There is, however, no royal road to making a hobby profitable—no more than there is to making a fortune on the Stock Exchange. Lots of books are published, both here and in America, on “How to become rich quick” by following certain systems; but to the outsider all such advice will generally cause the investor to lose far more than he wins, and I therefore wish to see if the experience gained in the past quarter of a century devoted to stamp dealing may not enable me to give some hints to “young collectors” that may be of use to them.

A beginner must not think that he can spend a few pounds in buying at haphazard packets and sets of stamps and sell them in a few months for more than he gave; but even here the “greenest” collector will not have wasted his money entirely, as he would have done if he had spent the amount in picture post cards, in luck (bad for his “Little Mary”), or in many of the usual ways that boys have of getting rid of their money.

I might also say here that I consider

stamp collecting a *real investment* for the beginner apart from making money out of it.

Just think for a moment what advantages the youth who collects and studies stamps has over one who neglects them.

Stamp collecting teaches him something every hour he spends at it—geography and history especially; names of the rulers of countries, coinage of the world—and gives him the habit of study and the eye for minutiae that will be of help to him throughout life: his stamps keep a boy occupied on wet days and long evenings. He learns how to correspond and something about keeping accounts if he joins a stamp club, and, in short, I consider that all these things arising out of collecting are a good investment, and will be of use in any business career.

Before giving my opinion on investments in stamps, I will mention shortly a few classes of stamps that the collector will do well to avoid, and afterwards consider how he can take up a pleasant and interesting hobby, combined with a reasonably good investment for his money at the same time.

What to Avoid

I should strongly advise the investor to avoid the pitfalls noted below.

1st. *Stamps quoted in advertisements at one-third to one-tenth part of catalogue price.*

Remember that if such stamps are on sale to collectors at such discounts under catalogue, they are also on sale to dealers at still greater discounts, and we dealers who publish catalogues avail ourselves of such opportunities, and in the following edition of our catalogues materially reduce prices; so that often a collector

who has, say in 1904, bought a set of stamps for 6s., then catalogued at 30s., finds in his 1905 catalogue that the price has come down to 8s. Not only has he made no bargain, but all the people who wanted these particular stamps have been filled up, and when he wants to sell he finds that there is no market.

2nd. *Avoid all stamps cancelled or postmarked to order*, such as the rubbish of Labuan and North Borneo. The supply is unlimited, like picture post cards, and when you want to realise you find that you cannot effect a sale.

3rd. Exercise great care in purchasing *used* stamps that have a much greater value than similar stamps unused, such as Heligoland, Virgin Isles, Bahamas Id., imperf., etc. The fakers take the genuine stamps, and apply such good imitations of the postmarks that often only first-rate experts can tell the good from the bad. Such stamps should only be purchased from dealers who are *really experts*, and who have a reputation to maintain.

4th. *Avoid stamps made primarily for stamp collectors and only secondarily for postal use.*

The most flagrant examples in this respect are the almost endless series of what are termed "Seebeck" stamps—that is, sets of stamps ranging from 1 cent to 10 dollars, and issued from Honduras, Nicaragua, and Salvador.

For one stamp of the higher values that is used postally, hundreds are sold at a nominal price to dealers, and when the young investor wants to part with such things he will find no market.

A recent example of rubbish every bit as bad as the Seebecks will be found in the numerous stamps emanating from Colombia. These goods (although good for postage, for our publishers have had many on letters in their mails) were at first offered at about 1s. to the peso, but now, owing to the great depreciation caused by the war in Colombia, the stamps can be had at 1½d. or less to the peso.

5th. *Above all, avoid poor condition.*

This is the chief point of all in collecting stamps as an investment.

If you collect used stamps, see that they are lightly cancelled, not daubed all

over with a mass of ink, so that the design of the stamp can hardly be seen. In many stamps it is of use to obtain early dated copies to show when particular colours, perforations, watermarks etc., came into use, and as an investment a specialized collection is much improved by a judicious selection of such stamps.

In unused stamps I consider that well-centred copies are of more importance than original gum, upon which I consider far too much stress is laid at the present time. I would certainly sooner have a well-centred stamp, say, of Messrs Perkins Bacon and Co.'s printing, without gum, than a similar stamp with the perforations cutting into the margins of the stamp but having full gum.

The greatest and most experienced collector of all, M. P. la Rénotière, told me some time ago that he frequently washed the gum from old stamps, such as Austria, etc., as he found that the strong, thick old gums in time cracked the paper of the stamps, and sometimes quite destroyed valuable specimens.

Of course, you must not think for a moment that I am advocating that gum should be generally removed. I only want to make the point that in *my* opinion well-centred stamps of good colour without gum are preferable to poor copies with gum.

6th. *Purchase from reliable firms.* This is *most* important. You will see lots of offers of stamps at 25 or 50 per cent. under Catalogue, but most of these are made by people who do not understand stamps, and who may quite unknowingly offer you reprints, fakes, and mended stamps which are, of course, valueless. Buy from firms who have made a study of stamps for many years; you will have to pay a little more, but you won't be "had" and find your collection full of rubbish when you want to sell.

7th. *Beware of paying fancy prices for stamps of which we give no Catalogue price.*

Many dealers, especially the smaller ones, say, "We sell everything under Gibbons' prices"; but many of them, when they get a stamp not priced, think they have struck a gold reef, and I have seen the most fancy prices asked—ah, and sometimes paid too!!—for stamps we have on sale at a few shillings. It does not at all follow that because

Gibbons does not affix a price the stamps are rare. It may be that when we price that country we happen to be sold out, and we put no price in the Catalogue until we see what the next parcel of these stamps that we buy may cost.

Having now mentioned some of the pitfalls in front of the investor, I will turn to the other side of the picture and see in what branch of collecting he can best combine study, amusement, and a sound investment.

Proper Tools

Are as essential to the stamp collector as to the carpenter; so before our beginner starts on his collection he must be properly supplied with an outfit.

To begin with, he will want a good album, priced catalogue, hinges, and tweezers, and from the commencement he should subscribe to *G.S.W.* and obtain the first volume, which is replete with useful information.

As he gets on a little it will be wise for him to form a small library for reference, and he should obtain as soon as possible:—*Stamps and Stamp Collecting*, by Major Evans, as this is the standard work explaining all terms used in collecting; *A Colour Dictionary*, by B. W. Warhurst; *Reprints*, by E. D. Bacon; and when more advanced he would do well to subscribe to several of the best periodicals, such as *The Monthly Journal*, *The Philatelic Record*, *The London Philatelist*, and *The American Journal of Philately*.

Broadly speaking, collectors may be divided into two great groups—the General Collector and the Specialist.

General Collector—First Stage

I will first take the general collector who wants to form a small collection containing stamps of all parts of the world.

This is the plan that most of us adopt in commencing to collect, and to the beginner is undoubtedly the most attractive.

In forming a small general collection it is well to ignore all varieties of paper, perforation, and watermark—just take the design of the stamps; it is as well to include as two varieties stamps that are perforate and imperforate, even when of similar design and colour.

Be particular in hinging your stamps, keep your books clean and tidy, and whenever you can replace a stamp by a finer copy do so without fail. It is also a good rule for a young collector to keep an account of what his collection has cost him, so that if he wishes to sell he will know about what he should get for his album.

The most suitable album for a collector at this stage is "The Century Album" of the postage stamps of the world, in one volume, with all prominent varieties included, minor varieties being entirely omitted.

General Collector—Second Stage

A more advanced form of general collecting is one that includes all *important* varieties, and a collector who gets to this stage cannot do better than adopt "The Imperial Album" as his standby.

This album is divided into three volumes, any one of which can be obtained separately. They are as follows:—

Vol. I, Stamps of the British Empire.

Vol. II, Stamps of Europe and the Colonies of European States.

Vol. III, Stamps of Foreign Countries.

By this arrangement a general collector can, if he so desire, confine his attention for a time to one volume and take up the others when he has filled up all the spaces for cheap stamps.

It is really surprising what a big collection can be got for a small sum—there are nearly 5000 different varieties cataloguing at 6d. each or less.

General Collecting—Third Stage

Is only for advanced collectors who can afford to spend a considerable amount on their collections. At this stage the collector will adopt blank albums, such as "The Oriel" or "The Philatelic," with movable leaves, and will try to obtain every minute variety that exists. This—for those who can afford it—is by far the most interesting and best-paying form of collecting.

The Specialist

Twenty, nay, even ten years ago one could start a general collection of the stamps of the world, and with the exception of a few of the great rarities could hope to make the same fairly complete. Ten years have altered things immensely, and it is now only a wealthy man who

can get a really nice collection of the world's postage stamps.

I think I cannot do better than quote here from Mr. Nankivell's *Stamp Collecting as a Pastime*, chapter xiii., on "Investments in Stamps":—

When a stamp collector is charged with being extravagant, with spending money lavishly and foolishly on a mere hobby, he may very justifiably reply that even his most extravagant spendings may be regarded as an investment.

The ordinary investor in, say, industrial securities is fairly content if he can, with a little risk, secure a steady six or seven per cent. If he launches out into more speculative shares, yielding higher rates of interest, he must be content to face a much greater risk of the capital invested. Now, the severest test of an investment is the yield of interest over a series of years covering periods of depression as well as periods of prosperity. The stamp collector who has used ordinary discretion in his purchases may confidently submit his investment to this test.

Now, in looking at an investment, one naturally looks at what has been done in the past in order to guide him in forming his ideas as to what to do in the future.

We can do the same thing in stamps, and looking back on the years during which I have been in the stamp business I have made a number of notes on collections that have been sold during that time. Many have been purchased by our publishers, the rest by our *confrères* in the trade. In quite a number of cases I have been able to get roughly the cost price and the cash realized, and I find that in the *very great* majority of cases—certainly in over 90 per cent.—substantial profits have been made on specialized collections of one or more countries.

Below I give a few examples, for which I can vouch. I cannot quote names for obvious reasons. I give the cost price, the net price realized, and about the time occupied in making the collection.

Examples of Investments in One Country Only

| No. | COST. | SOLD FOR. | YEARS MAKING |
|-----|-------|-----------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | |
| 1 | 50 | 100 | 8 |
| 2 | 140 | 300 | 5 |
| 3 | 300 | 450 | 1½ |
| 4 | 420 | 485 | 10 |
| 5 | 450 | 1250 | 8 |
| 6 | 650 | 2250 | 15 |
| 7 | 1100 | 2300 | 4 |
| 8 | 840 | 1630 | 6 |

Examples with Groups of Two to Seven Countries

| No. | COST. | SOLD FOR. | YEARS MAKING |
|-----|-------|-----------|--------------|
| | £ | £ | |
| 20 | 500 | 1400 | 6 |
| 21 | 5500 | 10,000 | 14 |
| 22 | 2800 | 6000 | 7 |
| 23 | 4200 | 5750 | 6 |

I could give *many* more examples if necessary, but these are sufficient to make my point, and the mere string of figures, without names of countries or owners, which I cannot divulge, would not be of much interest.

My firm for the past few years has purchased postage stamps to the value of some £30,000 on an annual average, and the *bulk* of such purchases have been specialized collections of one or more countries. The number of general collections that we have bought has been relatively small, as the general collections offered to us, as a rule, contain but very little of which we are really short in our stock.

On the contrary, in special collections one always finds many stamps that one wants, and after such collections have been picked over the balance usually forms a handsome addition to our stock books.

All this goes to prove that a good investment may be made by the collector who is willing to give the time to make such a collection.

(To be continued.)

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S PACKET.

No. 66, 500 varieties, is strongly recommended as the cheapest collection of 500 different Stamps ever offered—the Stamps could not be bought separately for three times the marvellously low price at which it is now offered. The Stamps, etc., are clean, picked specimens fit for any collection. The best 500 varieties in the trade. 4s. 1d., post-free.

A SPLENDID START. THE FINEST PACKET.

Packet No. 67, 1000 varieties. This packet contains 1000 different Stamps (and no Envelopes, Bands, and Cards), and is the cheapest packet ever offered by S. G., Ltd., satisfaction being absolutely guaranteed. The price it is offered at is the lowest ever quoted for such a collection, embracing as it does scores of scarce varieties, provisionals, new issues, and many very fine and obsolete varieties. 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

WORK FOR WINTRY EVENINGS

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

THE short days and long nights are at hand. A keener feel in the air, the early lighting-up, the sight of a football—these are a few of the many signs which speak to us of the fast approach of winter. To many the very name brings a shiver of disgust. But not so is it with the stamp collector, for the wintry season brings him long hours of active work; hours which are replete with interest and pleasure; hours which are looked forward to eagerly from day to day; hours the work of which will still survive when the head is bent and the eye is dim with age.

Our theme, then, is "Work for Wintry Evenings." Of course, I refer to a beginner's work. If the seasoned collector does me the honour to criticize these remarks of mine, well and good. But let it be clearly understood that for him I have no precept. My business lies with the young collector. To him, then, let me address myself. The work deals with the safe garnering of the summer's crop of stamps. All that bulky lot of treasures which have been picked up and stowed away in pocket book, or stamp purse, or collecting book must now be disgorged. The time has come for the album to be brought out and some of its many blanks to be filled. I have in mind a scene which, I believe, is by no means rare. Let me picture it as vividly as I can. A pile of stamps lies on the table. They are the gleanings of last summer. At present all is confusion. Chinese hob-nob with Transvaals and Russians with Japanese. Oh for a conjurer's wand and the voice of a siren to bid them sort themselves and hop into their appointed places! But it is not so to be. The only conjurer's wand that the philatelist knows is that magic word "method." "Order" is Heaven's first law, and without "order" the would-be philatelist degenerates into a mere accumulator of postmarked bits of paper. What, then, in detail, is the method we must adopt so that we may change

"chaos" into "kosmos" and satisfy the scruples of the most up-to-date collector? Let me a seven-fold scheme unfold.

Sorting

The stamps must first be classified according to the countries to which they belong. In cases where a large accumulation has been made it is a good plan to place the stamps of each country in transparent envelopes. Such envelopes can be obtained at 5d. or 6d. per 100, and, as labour-saving appliances, they are invaluable. Of course, the collector of adhesives will clear out all post card, envelope, and wrapper stamps, even though a recent regulation of the Postmaster-General has made such stamps, when cut out, permissible on letters. No regulation, not even the regulation of a Postmaster-General, can make a wrapper stamp into an adhesive stamp, i.e. a stamp sold at the post office gummed ready for application to a letter. We now proceed to an examination of the stamps in each envelope, and this entails a certain amount of handling. Some time ago I read of a delightful Irishism on the part of a well-known philatelist. He said that the best way to handle a stamp was not to handle it at all. True, stamps are "queer cattle"; they resent rough usage. Has the reader never experienced the shudder of horror at seeing some ignorant amate plant a well-moistened thumb (and sometimes not overclean at that) on one of his cherished stamps? How, then, are stamps to be taken up and examined? Well, most advanced collectors carry a peculiar-looking instrument which goes by the name of "tweezers." By this means stamps can be picked up without ever a finger being laid on them. This is a counsel of perfection, but one never knows which stamp will, in course of years, be worth pounds; and, therefore, seeing that the price depends largely on

the condition of the specimen, the habit of "tweezing" is worthy of cultivation.

If the collector has been careless in the gathering together of new additions to his album, he will find a few of them damaged or heavily obliterated or badly centred. In the matter of damaged stamps, not long ago I read a notice of an ingenious and not over-scrupulous stamp dealer, the gist of which was somewhat as follows:—"We have a drawer full of damaged stamps. Some of them are rare stamps catalogued from 6d. upwards. If you wish to have any of these damaged stamps, when next you write for our approval sheets [which sheets, by the way, were marked at exorbitant prices], kindly add to your letter: 'Please send me some damaged stamps.'" Now these stamps were given away (not in the pages of a journal, but given for the asking), and the moral is not difficult to read. Stamp dealers are not Charity Commissioners any more than other business men. It is not, therefore, to be supposed that these damaged stamps were of any commercial value. As a matter of fact they were a sop to gull the guileless schoolboy.

Damaged stamps, then, except in rare cases, have no value and no place in an album. Sometimes a rarity is skilfully mended, but, in such cases, all stamp dealers of repute advise their client of the fact.

Again, heavily obliterated stamps should be discarded as much as possible. What could be more unsightly than a stamp three-parts covered with a smudge of ink? Some firms make it a rule to destroy all badly obliterated stamps of current low-priced issues. Others have two prices, the one for a lightly cancelled stamp and the other for a specimen more heavily obliterated by the postal officials.

Lastly, in the process of sorting choose well-centred stamps, i.e. stamps with even margins between the perforation and the design. Stamps showing only a portion of the design are avoided by collectors; so also are stamps in which the design has a list to one side and a wide margin on the other.

Wetting

The halt and lame have been removed. We come to the examination of each

stamp. Some are clean and ready for insertion in the album. Others have portions of the envelope sticking to them. They must be removed. Never question the statement. Never throw a bait to laziness. See to it that all pieces of paper foreign to the stamp are cleared off before ever the album is opened to receive them. And the question is: "How are the ragged bits of paper to be removed without injury to the stamps in the process?"

One method in vogue among many collectors is to procure a shallow dish and cover the bottom with water. Then the stamp is floated face upwards and left until the water has moistened the paper to be removed. The superfluous paper is then peeled off and the stamp, face downwards, is placed on a sheet of blotting paper until such time as the stamp is thoroughly dry. Another method is to place the stamp so that the back is in contact with wet blotting paper. This involves a little more patience, but is less likely to injure the stamps than the former method.

Many stamps, however, are printed in colours which are apt to *run* if they make too close an acquaintance with water. Witness the present issues of Great Britain and her colonies. Russia also gives us an example of another kind. Before printing the designs, the sheet is covered with a layer of Spanish white or oxide of iron, thus giving an enamelled appearance to the stamp. Accordingly the colour impression of the design may come off in a film, like a transfer, when the stamp is placed in water. In these cases, then, the greatest care is required lest moisture be applied to the face of the stamp. A camel's-hair brush may be used to remove the offending bits of paper and so make them easy to remove.

Unused stamps are often found with mounts improvised out of the margin of a sheet of stamps. Very often these home-made mounts require a deal of patience to remove, for they have a habit of sticking very tenaciously. To remove them, without at the same time tearing the stamp or destroying the gum, is no easy matter. In this case, and also in the case of all embossed stamps, the "brush" method is the only safe one to adopt.

(To be continued.)

CANCELLATIONS ON HONG KONG POSTAGE STAMPS

By C. A. HOWES, S.B.

THE postage stamps of Hong Kong are deservedly popular, but there is even more of interest in them than the stamps themselves may suggest. I refer to the cancellations that can be found upon them, which form quite a study in themselves. It may not be generally known, perhaps, that this famous Oriental colony has for years stood as a sort of sponsor for the British postal traffic in the Far East, and has not wholly given up that position to this day. The mother country once had Consular Post Offices established in many foreign ports, before the Universal Postal Union became a reality, and was thus enabled, by her world-wide commerce, to serve her nationals in many places where no postal service existed or where the local service was poor. Naturally British stamps were supplied to these Consular Agencies, which were under the control of the Postmaster-General of Great Britain, and the necessary accompaniment of postmarks and cancellations was not forgotten.

The result of the above conditions was, of course, to identify stamps so used by the distinguishing features of their cancellations; but the term generally employed to designate them—"colonial cancellations"—is rather a misnomer, since very many were used in foreign ports where not an inch of ground was under British jurisdiction, save the consular premises. Were it not for the length of the term, we might be tempted to offer "extra-territorial cancellations" as a substitute, but we imagine that the current designation will "stick."

The question of the status of stamps so used we do not care to discuss. They were to all intents and purposes still British stamps, whether used in Buenos Ayres or Constantinople, for they were sold and cancelled by British officials and the revenue went to the British Post Office

Department. Much controversy has at one time or another been aroused on this point, but it finally comes down to the old joke of the cat and her kittens; I born in the oven, would they be biscuits?

But there is no doubt that stamps so used outside the country of their origin perhaps in far-remote corners of the globe where they serve as almost the only home tie to expatriated workers, and show that the homeland still keeps in touch with them, possess an interest which much exceeds that of the ordinary domestic cancellation. They are the representatives of philatelic extra-territoriality, so to speak, and very many have found their study and collection a source of interest and profit. It is a little surprising, however, to note the lack of attention given to other fields of a similar nature. As examples, we might mention the Indian stamps used at Zanzibar, before the Protectorate caused them to be surcharged; the same stamps used in British Somaliland before the distinctive issue, and also used at the present time in Aden, Arabia; the United States stamps used without surcharge in Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam; German stamps used in her colonies before they were surcharged; and Japanese stamps used in China and Korea before they received the special overprint—and since, in the case of Korea.

But the one that we wish to call special attention to at this time is the colony of Hong Kong. The island was ceded by China to Great Britain as a result of the so-called "Opium War" in 1840, possession was taken on 26 January, 1841, and on 5 April, 1843, it was erected into the full status of a Crown Colony. I have been able thus far to find but little in regard to its postal affairs, but in a history of the colony at hand I find the statement that Governor Sir H. Pottinger

organized a post office "to receive and deliver free of charge any letters or parcels" about May, 1842. Again, I find that under the administration of Sir G. Bonham (1848-54), "the Postmaster did good service by establishing branch offices at the Treaty Ports." The date is not given, but inasmuch as he had had trouble in 1847 with a steamship line to Canton, which he claimed infringed his prerogatives by making private contracts to carry mails there, we may feel assured that the branches were established soon after, possibly in 1848, for the defence of the steamship company was that there was no post office in Canton to carry mails to. Without doubt, then, the Canton agency was the first established.

As for the other Treaty Ports, opened during this period, there were four besides Canton, all designated by the Treaty of Nanking, 29 August, 1842. These were Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai. Settlement was begun at these ports soon after they were thrown open to trade, so that probably by 1848 there was enough of a community at each to warrant the establishment of a postal agency. Ten years later a second war with China resulted in the Treaty of Tientsin, 26 July, 1858, by which four more ports were designated, among them Chefoo and Swatow; but this treaty did not go into effect until further chastisement of the Chinese had been administered by the "Allies" (British and French) in 1860, when it was finally ratified on 24 October, with four more ports added.

This brings us up to philatelic times in Hong Kong; for its post office, which had hitherto been under the control of the Postmaster-General of Great Britain, was transferred to the local Government on 1 May, 1860. They soon decided on an issue of stamps for the colony, which event took place on 8 December, 1862, and not in October of that year as is sometimes stated. It will now be seen, by what has preceded, that there were thirteen Treaty Ports which had been declared open when the stamps were issued, and, as a matter of fact, all but one were then open and their Custom Houses in operation. Of course we know that the Hong Kong Post Office did not establish agencies in all these ports, but it seems positive that the following were then, or very soon after, in operation:

Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, Shanghai, Swatow, and Chefoo (?).

Mr. Juan Mencarini, in his monograph on Hong Kong, states that there was also an agency in Macao. If so, it was probably established about the time that Canton led the way in this matter; for in the early days there was quite a British contingent there, and even now it is much used as a summer resort by dwellers in Hong Kong. But of the Treaty Ports opened we have given only seven; two others should appear on our list, but as far as the writer's researches go they belong rather to a later date. These two are Hankow and Kiungchow; both were designated under the Tientsin Treaty, but Hankow was left a wreck by the Taiping rebels, and though opened for settlement in 1861, it took some time to recover, while Kiungchow was not opened until 1876.

Now let us look at our early series of stamps and see what distinguishing features we have in the cancellations, so that we may properly place them under the colony or its agencies. It will be at once noted that the most common cancellation is an oval of bars enclosing the serial number **B 62**. This was the number given to the Hong Kong Post Office by the British Post Office Department about 1860. Some two years previously a serial numbering of British post offices abroad had been begun, the index letter being changed after ninety-nine numbers had been disposed of. Thus we have **A 01** for Kingston, Jamaica; **B 01** for Alexandria, Egypt; and **B 62** for our present subject. Although the Hong Kong Post Office passed from under British control on 1 May, 1860, as already stated, yet this number has been retained by the colony on its obliterating marks until recently, and may perhaps still be used occasionally. When stamps were first employed, however, this obliteration was used only as a "killer," as the American mail clerks call it; that is, a cancellation for the stamps. This explains why we find it so plentifully on the early issues, for the dated postmark was then used merely for stamping on some place on the cover where it would be legible. Later, as we shall see, the dated postmark was used to cancel the stamps as well.

The obliterating mark just spoken of is found in several different styles, of

which we illustrate the most prominent. Type I seems to be the earliest form, and is a horizontal oval measuring outside approximately 17×22 mm., the number being about 6 mm. high. Another, which we will call Type Ia, is very similar, but



TYPE I.

measures approximately 18×21 mm. outside, and the number is nearer 7 mm. in height. The dimensions give it a "rounder" appearance than the first type. A third, which we will call Type Ib, is of apparently the same dimensions, but the letter and figures are thicker and not so well formed, the "2" particularly having a very flat top. These three variations seem to have appeared in the order

named, according to the evidence of my collection.

The next form, Type II, is of the same style, but much larger, measuring approximately 21×26 mm. outside; but the peculiarity of this type is the fact that the serial number reads 62 B, evidently an error. I have thus far not found this cancellation on a stamp issued earlier than 1880.



TYPE II.

Type III is apparently a correction of Type II, for it has the number reading properly, B 62, and is found on stamps of later date. Types II and III have the same dimensions, and seem to be somewhat scarce.

(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

MAYSTON SAHIB

By S. G. COLLINS

ABDUL RAHAMAN reclined on his mat-covered couch and took long, ponderous puffs at his hookah. It was the afternoon of a hot, sultry day in Calcutta, and business was likely to be suspended until the cool of the evening. Abdul was a stamp dealer, although there was nothing to denote this in the appearance of the thatched hut wherein he spent his days, and which he designated his shop, beyond the battered and weather-stained signboard suspended over the entrance, bearing the inscription "Stamps sold here," in irregular letters, which the fierce rays of an Indian sun had long since discoloured and faded.

Although there was little to give colour to such a supposition, Abdul was a stamp dealer, and had bought and sold stamps in that same hut for over twenty years. He was a Mohammedan by birth, and

possessed all the cunning of his race—he was as keen a dealer as any London expert. His had been a successful business career, and the profits he had made on nearly all the "good" stamps—as he called them—which had passed through his hands, came back to remembrance now as he lazily pulled at his hookah and mingled with his thoughts of an up-country village which he styled his "country," and to which he paid periodical visits. In his "country"—which, by the way, was a collection of mud-covered huts—Abdul was a big man. His wife held quite a high position there socially among the other women of the village and he himself was looked upon almost with awe by his fellow-villagers on such occasions as he paid them a visit. In the nights, when the women and children were in bed, Abdul would sit amid ar-

admiring circle of the village men, and all them stories of what he had seen and done in the great city called Calcutta. His homage itself was dear to the heart of Abdul, but, in addition, were not his possessions there, in the way of cattle and land, much in excess of any of the other men? Abdul was an old man now, and growing tired of business. He longed for gain for the honour and glory which were so freely bestowed on him in his own country, and he felt that he was growing too old to work much longer. His eyesight was failing him, and had lately led to his having been the victim of certain unscrupulous schoolboys, who had taken advantage of his short-sightedness to remove a lot of good stamps from an approval sheet and pay him only for a few cheap ones. Yes, he was getting tired of Calcutta, and longed to return to his wife and family, and to again take up his leading position in his native village. This last month he had been engaged in selling off his stock. There were very few stamps left now, he reflected, and when they were all gone—why, then, farewell to Calcutta, where the sahibs often abused him, and welcome to a life that held in store much sitting down, endless tookahs, and no work. And as he thus thought and dreamed, the stem of the tookah fell from his hand, and he was lulled into sleep by the soothing and seductive heat of the day.

A man, clad in dirty white drill, lurched up to the door and obscured the light. The man seemed unsteady on his feet and put up his hand to the signboard for support. His eyes were heavy and blood-shot, a thick growth of hair bristled on his face, and his general appearance was that of the hopeless, unredeemable drunkard. The man was Mayston Sahib, and Mayston Sahib was in his usual condition. "Hi, Abdul, you rascal, wake up," he shouted in a thick, hoarse voice. "I've brought you some stamps and I want some money badly. Here, wake up, and see what you can give me for these."

With trembling fingers he produced from an inner pocket a paper roughly folded, and on opening same disclosed to Abdul's view some dozen triangular Capes of the rare 1861 issue. They were all in superb condition, each with a broken mount attached, showing plainly

the rough and unsteady manner in which they had been removed from the collection they had previously graced.

Abdul's drowsiness left him, and he became alert and professional. These were the same stamps that he had procured for Mayston Sahib some two years ago, and he remembered with satisfaction that the transaction had carried a profit that fully came up to the expectations of his Eastern nature. Those were in the days when Mayston Sahib did not drink, and when he possessed a fine collection. It was only two years ago, and the collection had gone bit by bit to pay for the drink fever that had seized upon Mayston Sahib.

"Come, Abdul, what are you dreaming about? Give me ten rupees for these, if you want them, and let me go. God knows I was proud of them once, but now—now what does it matter? Come, let me have the money quick; I'm dying for a drink."

The native roused himself. "Mayston Sahib, I will give you ten rupees for these stamps if you will take some of it home to the missie. I saw her passing here yesterday, and she looked very ill and sad. Forgive me, sahib, when I say this to you. I am an old man, and am going away soon to my country, there to await the call that is to take me away for ever. Sahib, I saw missie's eyes, and I saw in them that she was slowly dying. She is not the same happy missie that you brought out from your English country to be your wife. Can't you make her happy again, sahib?"

"Shut up, you dog!" said the other, raising his hand threateningly. "Give me the money and let me go."

The native opened a wooden box at his side, and producing a ten-rupee note, handed it to Mayston in silence, and Mayston Sahib—formerly one of His Majesty's Civil Servants and a District Magistrate of Calcutta—lurched off to the nearest grog-shop, there to seek a realization of his drunken desires, over which his sodden nature already gloated.

The next morning found Abdul awake early, but weak and helpless in the clutches of a recently oft-recurring fever. He pulled a blanket over him, for he felt cold and shivering, and lay quiet for hours, lacking both the energy and the inclination to rise.

"Salaam, Abdul," came in a man's sonorous voice from the doorway, 'as a native entered and seated himself at the side of the couch. "Has that fever again attacked thee? Ah, this Calcutta is no place for thee at thy time of life; but hast heard the news? Mayston Sahib threw himself into the Hooghly last night. They have found the body and have but now taken it home."

"Ah, so!" replied Abdul; "it will fall very hard on poor Missie Mayston, but perhaps 'tis good. Allah is all-powerful and knoweth what is best."

"True," returned the other. "I have often seen Mayston Sahib's wife, she whom you call missie, going about the market in the morning buying pieces of cheap meat and counting every pice before spending it. Mayston Sahib was a bad man since the drink fever seized him, and I fear much she has been very often without food and without money. But I must go. Keep thyself indoors to-day, Abdul, and perchance the fever will have left thee by night."

As soon as he was gone, Abdul flung the blanket from him and sat up on the couch. He felt weak and shaky, but through the fever which blazed in his eyes there shone forth the light of a fixed determination which seemed to straighten his trembling limbs and give him new strength. Unlocking the wooden box, he took out the folded paper containing the triangular Capes, and locking the door, passed out of the shop and down the street.

No one knew how it happened, but the Strand Road is a busy and crowded thoroughfare during the day, and it would be easy for a man to be knocked down in the rush of traffic. Abdul was brought home on a native bed and laid on his couch. He had been knocked down and run over by a heavy wagon, and the doctor who happened to be passing at the time of the accident said that several of his ribs were broken, and

he could not live for more than a few hours. Abdul had been unconscious during the time he was being conveyed back to his shop. He was conscious now and moaned in a low voice, "Go and call Missie Mayston." One of the men present knew and understood, and crept silently, but swiftly, out of the shop. It seemed hours before "missie" arrived, but she did come at last, with a thick veil over her face, which, however, did not entirely hide the sorrow-stricken face and eyes red with crying.

"Send these men away, missie, and listen to me: I have something to say to you."

Mrs. Mayston said a few words in a low tone to the natives standing round, and in a short while they were left alone.

"I know your trouble, missie; I heard of it this morning. It hurts you very much, I know, but Mayston Sahib was not a good man, and it is better so. You were always kind to me, missie, when I came to your house in the happy days to sell Mayston Sahib stamps. They tell me I am going to die—and Allah is good and knoweth that which is best. Put your hand in this pocket and take out the envelope you will find there. It is a ticket to the English country from which you came and of which I have heard you speak so much. It is not my money. Mayston Sahib brought me some stamps yesterday, which I sold the master of the steamship company and bought you the ticket. He is a big collector and was very glad to have the stamps. The boat sails next Tuesday, missie, and you will go to your home. I too shall go home, but not to the home I had intended. I am an old man, missie, and I feel death very near, but, Allah be praised, it will be rest—rest—and I feel tired."

A rush of blood to lips choked further utterance, and his head sank back: a few tremors and it was all over. Allah had called him home, for Abdul Rahaman, stamp dealer and Mohammedan, was dead.

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1500 different Stamps form a splendid start for any one. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection; but it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Grand Old Stamp of Philately

OUR Australian friends claim this title for the 5d. stamp of New South Wales, and



as on the 1st December, 1905, it will have been continuously in use for fifty years in the same colour and printed from the same steel plate, on the same press, collectors are discussing ways and means for celebrating its jubilee. They rightly claim that these circumstances constitute a world's record not likely to be broken. The Sydney Philatelic Society has the matter in hand, and various methods of "celebrating" have already been proposed. Some, according to the *Australian Philatelist*, thought the authorities should be invited to change the colour of the stamp; others, to overprint it "Jubilee 1905"; while a few considered that its withdrawal on the 1st December would give it a place of honour in Philately for all time.

Personally, I hope the grand old stamp will not be tampered with by any childish surcharge or any withdrawal. Of all the suggestions a temporary change of colour to mark its jubilee year gets my vote.

"Imperfect"

To the stories I told last week about auctions I may add the following: On a celebrated and long-remembered occasion, a particularly ignorant auctioneer put up a British Columbia 2½d., duly described in his catalogue as "imperf.", which is the usual abbreviation for the word "imperfurate." Mr. Auctioneer read it otherwise, and offered the stamp as "imperfect," and to be, therefore,

sold on its merits. Of course there was a roar of hearty laughter in the auction room.

Croakers on Chalk-surfaced Paper

WHEN the change was announced from single CA to multiple CA, two well-known editors on the other side of the pond nearly had a paralytic stroke over the terrors to result from this terrifying change, and they advised their readers not to touch the evil thing.

Now we have a croaker of our own who in a contemporary prophesies a regular international chalk-surfaced epidemic and a bad time for philatelists.

The only remedy he foresees—the only escape from philatelic ruin—is to have an international stamp: when that arrives we are to throw our hats up into the air and rejoice, for there will be no more minor varieties.

I presume, in the manufacture of this international stamp, if any one of the many engravers or printers do but vary in the slightest degree from the agreed type, he will be dispatched to kingdom-come by express delivery.

These Croakers—Hang Them!

For my part I would prefer to hang the croakers. Those philatelic cranks who see in every little change that does not fit in with their pet ideas some threatening catastrophe for our hobby—the coming end of our pursuit—ought to be drummed out of the ranks. They are a pestilence more deadly than a thousand changes of multiples. They are the parasites who fasten on to the weaklings and sap their life before they have attained to philatelic strength and manhood.

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, 8½×11½ inches. The present edition is arranged in three volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Belgium.—On p. 121 we chronicled the high values of the new series, which we now illustrate.



NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE
NIET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG



NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE
NIET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG

Brazil.—We have received the 50 reis and the 100 reis on the watermarked paper. The 50 r. is in the type of the 10 r.

Wmk. "Estados Unidos Brazil." *Perf.*

- 20 reis, orange and blue.
- 50 " green.
- 100 " carmine.
- 200 " blue.

British Honduras.—*Ewen's Weekly* announces the receipt of the 1 c. and 2 c., King's Head on multiple CA paper. The 2 c. was chronicled by us in Vol. I, p. 97, but the 1 c. is new.



Wmk. Multiple CA. *Perf.*

- 1 c., green and paler green.
- 2 c., purple on red paper.

North Borneo.—More rubbish. The 1 dollar which has already been issued overprinted BRITISH-PROTECTORATE in black, has now been issued with the same overprint in red; and the 2 dollars of the same large plaster series of 1886-9 has also been embellished with same overprint in red.



Series of 1886-9.

Overprinted BRITISH-PROTECTORATE in red.

- 1 dollar, scarlet.
- 2 dollars, green.

Tasmania.—We have received the 1d. of the pictorial series on the Commonwealth paper, i.e. watermarked Crown over A.



Wmk. Crown A. *Perf.*

- 1d., rose-red.

STANLEY GIBBONS PRICED CATALOGUE OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD

Vol. I. Great Britain and Colonies; post-free, 2s. 9d. Vol. II. The Rest of the World; post-free, 2s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

Haul in New Caledonia

M. MAHÉ, the well-known veteran stamp dealer of Paris, is contributing to *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* some very interesting reminiscences of the early days of stamp collecting. In the October number he tells of a bit of luck he had in securing a sheet of the curious-looking first issue of New Caledonia. From the first it was a scarce stamp. Only thirty sheets—1500 stamps—were printed when the stamp was suppressed.

"As was the case with all the other dealers, I used to be asked daily, 'Have you the stamp of New Caledonia?' It became a regular nightmare. I had to answer, and rightly, 'No.' I used to say that I expected it, for one always says one expects a thing when one has not got it; but that was of no use. As the result of these unceasing questions, I became so unnerved that I could stand it no longer, and one fine morning I said to myself, 'I must have some of these New Caledonia; I will have them.'"

After a great deal of trouble he secured a draft from the Comptoir d'Escompte which he transmitted with a fortunate introduction to a trader at Porte-de-France and awaited events. Six months slipped by, and he had given up all hope of getting the desired sheet, when one Sunday he was handed a letter, and from it "I pulled forth, folded into four, a letter accompanying a sheet of the New Caledonia, which I had given up as hopeless. I need not say how great was our joy, and what castles we set ourselves to build, my wife and I, as we dined with unwonted appetite."

"This is how M. Claude explained the delay in regard to my request. With great difficulty a sheet had been found in a merchant's office; there was not another anywhere, and as it was only obtained a short time before M. Claude's departure for Europe, he had decided to bring it with him for safety's sake. In spite of the long time which had passed between asking for it and getting it, no supply had arrived yet to lessen the rarity of these stamps; there had been only a few single copies. A whole sheet was a sensational arrival, so I proposed to put a high price on it."

"Next morning chance brought to me one of the leading Parisian collectors, M. P—. Without saying a word I put the sheet before him, and just said, looking at him, 'There!' The collector, astonished greatly at seeing such a thing in the hands of a small dealer, asked me, 'How much?' 'A thousand francs,' said I. 'A thousand francs! It is too dear—much too dear; you will never sell it.' I did not wish to bate an inch, and he left me, repeating, 'It is too dear; you will not sell it.' That same evening another 'big wig' came in. The same thing happened, the same question, 'How much?' 'A thousand francs.' 'I take it,' said he wisely. The sheet was of the very first printing, *grey-black*, and as fine as one could expect a lithograph to be when it had been drawn and printed under the rudimentary conditions which we know existed. The next morning the first collector came back and said carelessly, 'Yes, I have reflected; I will take your sheet, although it is very dear.' 'I am very sorry, sir, but you come too late; the sheet was sold last night to M. D—'"

Why are Europeans Neglected?

STAMPS so rich in historical associations as the older European issues should surely claim a greater share of philatelic attention than they enjoy at the present time. An interesting letter, signed "European," is sent us on the subject:—

"Philatelic writers and lecturers are continually telling us" (says the writer of the letter) "that we should collect stamps for the pleasure they give us, for their historical, curious, or artistic interest, and not for their value in the market, present or future. Philately, in short, is a cult or religion, and not a business. That we are often told these things by those who do make it a business does not detract from the truth of the doctrine, but it is a pity that our mentors do not more frequently practise what they preach."

"There can be no doubt that, with very few exceptions, the early issues of European countries far surpass the stamps of any other country in historical and artistic interest. The early issues of Holland, Belgium, France, Russia, and Bulgaria; the stamps of Sicily and many of the German States are far more beautiful in design, colour, and execution, than any Colonial or American productions, while their historical interest is surely no less. How is it, then, that European stamps are neglected? Why do our dealers not stock them in any adequate way, and why in our auction sales and exchange packets are 90 per cent. of the stamps offered British Colonial? One can only suspect that there is more profit in Colonials for the dealer, and that it is a case of the tail wagging the dog."—*The Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*.

["European" evidently overlooks the fact that dealers are in business to sell what is in demand. Dealers for years overstocked themselves with Europeans—in fact, until they were compelled to abandon the unwise policy of locking up capital in countries for which there was a decreasing demand.—ED. G.S.W.]

A Busy Season Anticipated

THERE is every prospect of the season which is just opening being a very busy one in the stamp world. Most of the dealers already report a larger amount of inquiry than is usually noticeable at this time of the year, and we can, fortunately, endorse their statements from personal experience. The exhibition which has been arranged to take place in May next has, no doubt, something to do with the increased demand among the more advanced class of collectors, but one must look further for the cause of the greater confidence shown by the beginner and the medium collector. In our opinion this is to be found in the fact that prices, especially of British Colonial stamps, are once more on the up grade after the undoubted slump which took place from 1901 to 1904. Prices touched bottom last season, and are gradually tending upwards once more. Rising markets always bring many buyers.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*.

The Rush for King's Heads

THE rush for King's Head stamps with the single watermark is a perfectly natural one, and that the prices have risen so much is not to be wondered at when it is known what a limited number of many of the varieties was issued. But the King's Head specialists, though recently very much to the fore, form only a comparatively small class compared with the general body of collectors, and when we say that prices are rising, we are not referring to King's Head stamps and recent issues only, but to the whole catalogue, from first to last. We believe that the average values of stamps, as reflected by the principal catalogues to-day, form a very fair basis from which gradual improvement in prices may confidently be expected under normal conditions. Of course when a country has been very much boomed the prices must drop when that boom is over, and there are one or two small sections which are not likely to share in the coming improvement, but taken as a whole, stamps at present prices should show a good profit in a few years.—*The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*.



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our New York Letter

STANLEY GIBBONS, INCORPORATED,
198, BROADWAY, NEW YORK,
October, 1905

Randall's Collection: Bought and Sold Again

WE beg to announce the purchase of the magnificent collection of British Colonials formed by Mr. W. H. Randall, of Boston. Mr. Randall has been, if anything, over-particular as to the condition of his specimens, and in the two large Oriol albums we could scarcely find a single copy that was not in mint condition. Among other things, we were pleased to find such rarities as Bahamas 1d., clean cut (No. 2); 6d., lilac, no watermark, perf. 13; Barbados complete from Nos. 20 to 83; Canada, 10 c., black-brown, mint; and a host of stamps from 50 dollars to 200 dollars catalogue value. We had hoped to disperse the specimens in this collection amongst many of our clients who are anxiously waiting to fill in some aching voids, but we received a flattering offer from a private client for the *entire* collection as it was, and we sold it to him. The collection catalogued over 13,000 dollars, and we were very fortunate in being able to buy it, as such collections are not often offered. It was a big prize in a small packet.

The King's Head Boom

The King's Head boom is still going strong. To facilitate the checking of these stamps, I issued a little pocket list, giving prices on all varieties on hand, and listing all that have appeared to date. Five hundred copies were quickly bespoken, and we have been obliged to issue a reprint to fill the demand. Six cents is its selling price, which amount about pays for time and material devoted to its production.

Natal, Mauritius, and Australians

There seems to be a good strong demand for the old stamps of such countries as Natal, Mauritius, and the Australias. We have lately disposed of a goodly number of these, and if the demand holds through the winter, we shall find ourselves with more money than goods.

"People with the Goods"

I have been very much amused at the assaults upon our well-known phrase of the "People with the goods." As we spend several thousand dollars every year on advertising, the thought struck me that perhaps a "course" as offered by some of the advertising schools would be of benefit, and I accordingly "done gone went and done it." I originated the expression of "The people with the goods," which has been imitated in our trade journals by others with such phrases as "The people whose goods sell," "The people with good goods," and one party—bust-'em-up style—capped the climax with "The fellow with the good goods that sell." Imitation is, indeed, the sincerest form of flattery. We appreciate and court it.

Mr. Luff busy

Mr. Luff is busy—there is no doubt about that—but not too busy to pass upon any stamps sent us for examination. There is so much faked-up stuff around here just now, and some more or less notorious people in the city just at present, that collectors should be careful of any tempting bargains. Any American collector who has our Catalogue will find our terms on page 57, at the back of Part I.

American Collections for the Exhibition

I have not yet heard of any American collection that is going to be shown at the London Philatelic Exhibition next year except the Scandinavian collection belonging to Mr. Ackerman. This is a fine collection, and is sure to meet with success wherever shown. I shall be very glad to communicate with any collector who desires information as to classes, cost of space, etc. etc.

Shades in Current U.S.

Have any of our readers noticed the marked shades coming under the present "series of 1902" issue of United States stamps? In rearranging a stock book of these, I found no less than seven distinct colours of the one cent, from deep, heavy blue-green to a grass-green *à la* Barbados. The twos don't seem to run much to shades, but the threes, fours, fives, sixes, tens, and fifteens can be shaded by from two to five copies each. Some of these may be hard to find some day, and are worthy of attention. Some so-called current stuff soon gets out of sight and hard to find; for instance, the 4 c., marone, of 1899. This can be found in wonderful shades, running from deep plum-brown to a fiery red-brown—eight good shades at least, some of them easily worth fifty cents each, and yet the stamp has only been out of use a few years. Fill up the current United States before the various printings get too difficult to get. I don't charge for tips, and have no business partnership with Mr. Postmaster Cortelyou in this deal. I'm trying to help the Treasury out on its deficit; that's all.

When Some Collectors Call

"I came in to-day," said one of our New York collectors, "because I understood that Power would be away, and that, therefore, I might at least take home a little present for the children. I can't do that when he's here because of those d—d rarity books of his." Just as it happened, I did intend to be absent that day, but the long-distance telephone helped me out, and I found myself at the "old stand." I'm glad I was there, but I mustn't tell you what I *did* to that man.

Speculating Collectors

Heavens above, here's that telephone going again! "Yes, sir, we are." "What country?" "Yes." "What number?" "Yes. Nine copies on hand. Tried everywhere? How foolish! Why not try 'the people with the goods'? What time?" "All right. Good-bye." And he came down for a bargain and got a mare's nest. Why will collectors buy a dozen when they need one? I'm never sorry if the speculator gets stung, because he hurts our business and the pasture generally. Give me the one-of-a-kind or the block-of-four man; but the dozen-copy man—nay, nay.

Mr. President Luff

Mr. Luff is now the President of the New York Collectors' Club, and as such is entitled to full-fledged consideration on our part. We duly determined that he should appreciate the confidence we repose in him by letting him take us all out to lunch yesterday. I am not quite certain—but I know there was ice inside the bucket, and if my befuddled memory serves me right there was a bottle inside the ice. A bottle, did I say? Oh, well, let it go at a bottle. It sounds better, and the Czar of the Strand may have his weather eye open.

E. B. POWER.

Our Transvaal Letter

WE are getting on in this part of the world, and the great Caesar, our pet name for C.S.A.R. (Central South African Railway) is leading and pushing us on. Railway Parcel stamps, Railway Letter stamps, and Railway Official stamps, three items for one institution at one time, is not so bad to begin with.

Railway Parcel Stamps

The Railway Parcel stamps are only used for railway parcels, and have nothing to do with postal parcels. They consist of 1 p., 3 p., 6 p., 1s., and 5s. values, all of one design, a horseshoe pattern, the 1 p. being slightly different from type of other values. All are printed in brown colour on white paper and perforated.

Having all values of one uniform colour seems to have led to confusion, and thus a new issue has been prepared and is now in use, same design as before, but the 1 p. is brown, the 3 p. is red, the 6 p. is green, the 1s. is blue, and the 5s. is brown.

These stamps are only used at the large railway centres on prepaid parcels; small stations do without them as formerly.

Railway Official Stamps

The Railway Official stamps consist of the current set of $\frac{1}{2}$ p. up to 1s. postage stamps overprinted "C.S.A.R." in black block letters; they are used mainly by the Johannesburg Central Office.

I asked a high railway official in Pretoria *re* same, and he told me that owing to the abuse of the rubber official handstamps which were used formerly for franking purposes, these had been withdrawn, and they were now using the current postage stamps without *any* surcharge, and he did not see the reason why Johannesburg should use surcharged stamps. I have since been told that the overprinting has been stopped, and that now the stamps have the initials "C.S.A.R." perforated on each stamp similarly to the present Australian Official stamps. As we have a lot of Australians in Government service, it is very likely that this idea emanated from one of them.

I have not as yet seen these perforated stamps. The last letter from railway headquarters I saw was dated "8 October, '05," and was franked with a 1 p., red and black stamp with black overprint; the $\frac{1}{2}$ p. stamps with black surcharge are used at all railway stations for posting advice notes, *re* arrival of goods, through local post offices, which defaces them as ordinary postage stamps. The higher values seem only to be current in Johannesburg Head Office.

The unused stamps are not supposed to get into the hands of the public, so the collector of "unused" will have a hard time to procure them. These stamps are undoubted Official Postage stamps, and will have to be catalogued as such. I only hope that the other departments of the Transvaal service will not follow suit, as otherwise we might be blessed (?) with a repetition of South Australia, 1868-74 issues, and that would be rather too much of a good thing.

Railway Letter Stamp

The Railway Letter stamp is not a stamp as yet, but an Official envelope; it costs one penny, but has no indication of value printed on it, only the usual heading. The to-be-posted letter, which must be franked by ordinary postage stamps, has to be handed to the station-master by the sender; he then collects the penny, encloses the letter in the Official envelope (which, by the way, cannot be bought by the public previously), addresses it to the nearest post office which the train reaches, defaces it with his date stamp, which is very similar to the post office date stamp, and then hands it to the guard of the train, who is responsible for its delivery to the postal authorities.

The system does not seem to work well as yet, and the supply of envelopes is too limited. I was at our local railway station the other night, and saw the procedure gone through without an Official envelope. The

station-master took an ordinary 1 p. postage stamp without any surcharge, stuck it alongside the franking stamp—which was, of course, unused—then cancelled his stamp with his date stamp, leaving the first stamp uncanceled. On my remarking this, he informed me that the first franking postage stamp had to be cancelled by the post office which received the letter from the guard. The system is an improvement on the old one. For instance, the mails close here at the post office at 5 p.m.; the mail train, however, only leaves at 12 p.m., thus an important letter to be posted after 5 p.m. has to wait for twenty-four hours, unless one would go to the railway station and try the kindness of a passenger on board or boarding the train. As all trains here run in the night, it is not so easy to find a proper person; and then there is no guarantee that he may not place the letter in his pocket and forget all about it. My wife says I have that habit myself, but this I always deny, priding myself that I hand all letters, and especially her accounts, to her as soon as possible after receipt of them. But what is the use of arguing with one's wife? She is bound to be right!

It will be seen that the Railway Letter stamp is an improvement, but the system is not as yet worked correctly: time will no doubt remedy this.

Postal Improvements

The post office is also improving. There is the issue of the 1d. stamps in little booklets of five pages each, six stamps interleaved with paper, for which 2s. 7d. is charged, the extra penny being for the booklet itself, which is covered inside and outside with postal information such as an ordinary mortal requires every day, and still does not know without aid of a Post Office Guide or personal application to postmaster. Then there are the new British Postal Orders to be used only for Great Britain and all British possessions. These are a decided boon. For instance, I want to buy something in London costing 2s. 6d. Formerly I had to take a Money Order which cost 9d., which is about 30 per cent. of the whole amount, rather an expensive charge; now I can buy a British Postal Order from 1s. up to 5s. at 2d. commission; for 7s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. I pay 3d.; and for 15s. to 20s. I pay 4d.; and if I have to remit broken amounts of 1s. I can affix Transvaal postage stamps not exceeding 5d. on the face of the Postal Order, and the country of payment will pay out the full value—the face value of the order plus the value of the stamps affixed.

As this system will very likely be extended to other colonies, it seems to me some office, say London, will find itself some day overstocked with small amounts of British Colonial postage stamps, which it will not be worth while to remit to country of origin, but which will have to be turned into cash somehow. Most likely some stamp firm will buy up all these stamps at face value, and thus save the trouble and risk attached to direct importation, and bring the present rate of 1s. 2d. per 1s. down to 1s. 1d., thus providing a further boon for collectors of current unused stamps.

Single-colour issue

The latest excitement is the issue of $\frac{1}{2}$ p. and 1 p. stamps in single colours, the $\frac{1}{2}$ p. in green, and the 1 p. in red, perforation and watermark as before. Several people, all non-collectors, have been at me to hear if it were not a good speculation to lay aside a few pounds' worth of the bicoloured values. I pointed out that owing to the enormous quantities of these stamps printed, it would take long years before a sale at substantial profits could be effected. But I spoke in vain; the post office was besieged, and all bicoloured stamps are sold out.

Now speculation is rife if other values are to follow in single colours, or if the two low values are to be the only ones changed. I believe that the change was only made with the $\frac{1}{2}$ p. and 1 p. on account of the expense of double printing. If I knew about the other values I would prophesy, but there being now

such an amount of red tape at headquarters, these little matters are kept as secret as if they were great State secrets; consequently I have not been able to find out what really is going to happen. Perhaps it is to follow the idea of Natal and Orange River Colony, of having the lowest, most-used values printed in single colours, and the others in double colours—although the stamps of the Cape Colony, which uses more than the other colonies, look very pretty in their single colours, and certainly cost less than the bicoloured ones.

A search for 6 p. stamps

Since the cable brought us the news that a Transvaal 6 p. stamp had been sold at £105 at a London

auction, everybody is speaking about it, and the chance of finding some in old correspondence, forgetting altogether that Tommy Atkins never left a stamp or a bit of paper resembling one behind when he marched through the country: even six-foot-high safes did not stop him from getting at them.

It is useless to try to remember how often I have been asked if I had any of this class of stamps. Could I just let them have a look at it? Would it not be wiser to turn the stamps into real estate? Why would people pay such prices for bits of paper? etc. etc. People are the same all the world over; what they said at home about the 1 p., Mauritius, they repeat here now that it is a 6 p. Transvaal. It is the money which makes them say anything. EMIL TAMSEN.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



BETTY SANK UPON THE CUSHIONS OF THE CARRIAGE

CHAPTER XXIV (continued)

Wherein William and Betty, after having been robbed, narrowly escape being taken for the robbers

SO William Keniss and Betty Scott walked on for a few minutes without a word. The girl was the first to break the silence.

"It's all very well," said she, "but what shall we do with our equal rights, if by any chance the stamp is found again?"

"Oh, that's a very simple matter," returned William.

"We'll toss for it."

Such a solution of the difficulty amused Betty greatly.

"Well done!" she cried. "Mind you don't go back from that."

They dined hastily, and immediately afterwards took their places in the landau which was waiting for them, and drove to the station, followed in another carriage by John and Victoria, whose few days of close intercourse had made them the best friends in the world.

CHAPTER XXV.

William and Betty find themselves face to face with a fresh mystery

"OH, I am worn out!" cried Betty, sinking upon the cushions of the saloon carriage which was to take them back to Paris. "My eyes ache, my limbs tremble——"

"Ah, but we have seen some grand sights!" said William, who was paying her a visit in her compartment.

"Yes, but we lack a Spartivento to give spice to our return journey."

"Well, Miss Betty, you can't have everything, you know."

The two young people often amused themselves with remembrances of the adventurer, for the present lost in the mists of the past. The journey continued without any remarkable incident through Italy, France, and Paris, till on the morning of Saturday, May 30th, they arrived at Havre, and went on board the *Normandie*.

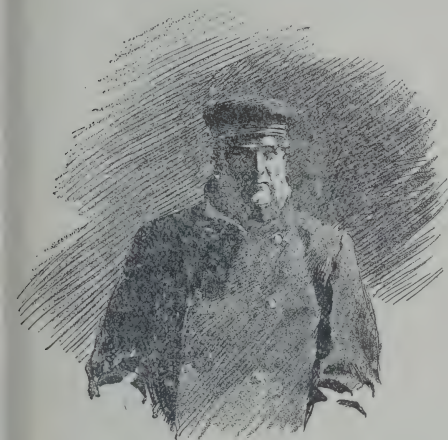
As the vessel steamed out of the dock on her way to New York the two friends paced the deck together. "You can hardly imagine," said Betty, "how glad I am at heart to be returning home, and how I congratulate myself on having you for a companion."

"Ah, Miss Betty," said William in his gentlest voice, "I feel, indeed, how priceless that assertion is to me, and I am merely uttering a truism in giving you the same assurance."

"Thanks, my good friend, thanks. But really, you have been during the whole journey so perfect a cavalier, a rival so kindly and thoughtful, that I feel compelled to tell you how I have been touched by all your delicate attentions. Not one of them has passed unnoticed, I assure you."

For a minute they walked on slowly without a word, each wrapped in a sweet dream, and then the luncheon bell brought them brusquely back to earth, or, rather, to the sea.

They sat down to table, and for a time there was little animation to be observed among all these people, gathered from the four quarters of the globe, and knowing nothing of each other. But the lovely weather, calm sea, and delicate fare loosened their



THE CAPTAIN OF THE "NORMANDIE"

tongues little by little. The captain talked to one and another, doing his utmost to break the ice and establish a feeling of companionship among his passengers, who were to live together for a whole week. Noticing that a place near him was vacant, he presently said—

"The Admiral cannot have heard the bell."

"Have we an admiral on board?" asked Betty, who was seated at the captain's right hand.

"Yes, Miss Scott."

"Of what country?"

"The High Admiral Campanas y Banastero, in supreme command of the navy of the Honduras Republic."

"Oh, a personage of distinction, then?"

"Yes, of very high distinction."

And the captain requested a steward to go to the High Admiral's cabin and inform him they were at table. The steward returned to say that the High Admiral was not well and would not appear.

"Not well?" said the captain in surprise. "It cannot be sea-sickness, for we have never had such calm weather."

"And then," remarked Betty, "an admiral is the last person in whom such a thing would be permissible."

"Just so, Miss Scott, and no doubt we shall see the illustrious sailor this evening."

Lunch was finished, the afternoon passed, and they

met again at dinner without anyone being able to boast of having even seen the High Admiral.

"It is very curious," said the captain, turning to Betty. "I received him myself when he arrived on board, and he seemed perfectly well and in the best of spirits. Then suddenly, at the very moment you were crossing the footbridge, he took a regular leap backwards, shut himself up in his cabin, and has not been seen since."

"Was it the sight of me that frightened him so?" asked the girl, laughing.

"I should not think so, Miss Scott. Such an aspect would rather attract than repel."

Very soon little was talked about but the High Admiral. Everyone was asking what could be the matter with him. The captain had sent the ship's doctor to see him, but the strange invalid had not let him even come into his cabin. Even the steward who took him his meals had received orders to put the dishes down in a corner and go away immediately without turning back. But his malady was evidently not a serious one, as the voluntary recluse ate with a good appetite.

Some of the passengers thought that his exalted position making something of a personage of him, the High Admiral wished to avoid impertinent curiosity. But then, why had he himself chosen his place at table if he never meant to occupy it? It was certainly a mystery. Everyone was interested, but particularly the ladies; and when at the end of two days it became certain that this enigmatical person meant to live in his cabin the desire to see him grew beyond all limit.

"Do you know, I have actually seen him!" said one gentleman confidently, as they sat at luncheon the second day.

There was no need to be more precise, for everyone knew of whom he spoke. So in the midst of such a dearth of news a great interest was manifested.

"Impossible!" "You are favoured!" "Where?" "What did you do?"

"Oh, it was very simple. I could not sleep last night, and growing weary of lying awake I dressed and went up on deck. I had been there a few minutes breathing the fresh air when the door of the mysterious cabin opened and a man came out, after looking round carefully to see that there was no one about. I saw him take a few steps, stretch himself, yawn. Then he passed close by me, looked at me well without seeming to mind me at all, and after a few turns he retired tranquilly to his cabin and shut himself in again. And I went back to bed."

"Well, what is he like?" asked William.

"He is tall, of imposing presence, and with long grey whiskers."

The lucky passenger who had had the good fortune to see the High Admiral became an object of envy, and the general curiosity was only excited the more.

As they left the table a group formed, composed of William and Betty and a few other Americans, who had soon become friends.

"I declare I really will see this extraordinary Admiral," said the young girl suddenly. Adding, with a laughing little grimace, "I am so interested in him that I can no longer sleep; I am losing my appetite, and shall fall ill if I do not make the acquaintance of this intrepid seaman with the least possible delay."

There was a general laugh, showing how little credit was given to this melancholy prediction.

"But it's a very serious thing," said she, "and, moreover, it's unworthy of good Americans to allow themselves to be mystified, and I propose that we try a bold stroke."

"Yes, but what?" said a big Chicago manufacturer, who formed one of the little group.

"I have an idea."

And signing to her auditors to form a closer circle round her, Miss Betty continued in a mysterious voice—

"Since one of the passengers saw the Admiral at



THE PRINCE AT ONCE GAVE THEM TWO RECEIPTS

three o'clock in the morning, it is evident that he chooses this ridiculous hour for his promenade. Now he might meet at a quarter to three, form an ambush in the shade not far from his cabin door, and profit by the moonlight to catch a glimpse at least of his risks. What do you say?"

A chorus of approbation followed this speech, for here were young people in the party who loved a bit of fun, and to whom the idea was altogether congenial. "That's it!" "Just the thing!" "Bravo!" were he laughing murmurs.

It was arranged that with the exception of those then present no one was to be told of the project, not even the ship's officers. The secret was wonderfully well kept, and the only thing remarked on was the fact that the young Americans retired for the night at about nine o'clock, which was much earlier than usual. "You are very rational to-day," said the captain, when William wished him good night.

"What can you expect? The sea air makes one so sleepy."

No more was said, and quiet soon reigned over the steamer.

It was a lovely night, all silvered by the moon, whose light was reflected from the shimmering waves. Only the lightest breeze was blowing, and in the bluish shade no sound was heard but the groaning of the screw and the ripple of the foam left by the steamer in her wake. At about half-past two in the morning a door opened cautiously, then another, then a third, and ten minutes later the last of the little company had stealthily gained the deck, to the great surprise of the night-watch, who knew nothing of this strange expedition.

By common consent Betty had been appointed general. She entered heart and soul into the campaign, and arranged her army in two divisions, one on each side of the mysterious cabin, in order to blockade the High Admiral if necessary.

Then they waited.

Unfortunately dark clouds soon appeared, blotting out the moon. The deck was now only lighted by the electric lamps, placed at distant intervals, and left there to facilitate the working of the ship. At last the clock struck three.

"Behold the fateful moment!" whispered William.

A few minutes later one of the conspirators who was on guard signalled that the High Admiral's door had just turned on its hinges, and that His Excellency was now on deck. Then they saw what appeared like a tall, moving mass emerge from the shade, advancing slowly, and seeming to glance carefully in every direction.

"There he is! There he is!" was whispered round with stifled bursts of laughter.

It was, indeed, a most grotesque sight. The High Admiral, for it was evidently he, advanced with short, hesitating steps; and as he passed under one of the lighted lamps they saw he was rolled up in a number of rugs, and wore a hat with a turned-down brim that quite hid his face. He had scarcely taken two strides before those of the two groups who were behind him followed with noiseless tread, so as to cut off his retreat, while the others advanced to meet him, that they might get a nearer view.

Turning a corner suddenly Campanas y Banastero found himself surrounded by five or six intruders, who were emulating one another in trying to see his face under the protecting hat. Stupefied, he turned to retrace his steps, only to fall into another ambush, to wheel round again, and absolutely fly to escape his persecutors, who laughingly gave up all attempt at concealment and chased him mercilessly. The unfortunate sailor was the more troubled because he had no wish to appear to flee, and endeavoured to keep up to the end an air of decorum.

It might have been noticed that a meeting with Betty or William appeared specially distasteful to him; for whenever he caught sight of them, even at

a distance, he lowered his head, pulled up the collar of his coat, and immediately started in another direction. Once William, who had hidden in company with Betty behind a mast, struck a match under his very nose; but it was only a flash, for the High Admiral, with one vigorous breath, blew it out. At last, just as the unfortunate night-walker had escaped back into his cabin, after the most exciting chase, the captain, awakened by the shouts of laughter and furious stampede, appeared on the scene and demanded the cause of the tumult. Though he would much have liked to enjoy the fun himself, he pretended to be a little vexed.

"You put me in a very awkward position with regard to this great personage," he said. "I beg you to go back to your cabins and leave the High Admiral to please himself. An incognito, no less than sickness, is a thing to be respected."

The guilty parties, like so many schoolboys in disgrace, listened meekly to the lecture, and at once went to bed. The next day the very sight of each other made them laugh.

"Well, have you seen him now?"

"Oh, don't talk to me about it. It was a foolish thing to do!"

"Which doesn't alter the fact that it was great fun!"

"Yes, but Senor Campanas y Banastero cannot have found it so."

"He has a fine head!"

But a new idea had occurred to William and Betty. "You will laugh at me," said the girl to her friend, "but the Admiral's eyes, though I only caught a glimpse of them by the light of a match, reminded me—"

"Why, that's just what I thought," said the young man, with perfect comprehension.

"But it would be the most extraordinary thing in the world, since the Naples police were certain our man went to Brindisi."

"All the more reason he should be here, Miss Betty, when you think what Signor Petto is. But even so, I dare not believe it. Such a coincidence is beyond all probability."

"We really are becoming monomaniacs on this subject. Everywhere we go we see Tilbury—Spartisto—Orsikoff!"

"Well, our sight has not been in fault so far."

"No, I tell you, it is madness."

John and Victoria were questioned as to what they had heard about the High Admiral, but they were both so absorbed in their future prospects—especially Victoria, who was overflowing with joy at the idea of returning to her native country and taking back her restive *fiancé* with her—that they could give no information of any interest, except that it was all the same to them!



(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Kent and Sussex Philatelic Society

President: Edward J. Nankivell.
Secretary: F. Wicks, The Lodge, Tudeley, Tonbridge.
Meetings: Members' Houses. Monthly: afternoons.

THE opening meeting of the above Society's winter session was held, at the kind invitation of the President, at Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells, on Monday, 23 October, 1905.

Mr. Edward J. Nankivell presided, and the attendance included Mrs. Collins, Miss A. L. Nix, the Rev. D. J. Stather Hunt, M.A., Mr. Chas. Hepburn Scott, and Mr. Frederick Wicks (Hon. Sec.).

Letters of regret at non-attendance were received from Miss I. Nix, the Rev. Dr. Highwood, M.A., D.C.L., Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Wheelwright, Mr. Geo. Beale Pinyon, Dr. W. Allan Harmer, Mr. Nelson T. Hillier, etc.

The President, in the course of an excellent address, dealt with many matters of moment to philatelists, reviewing the developments in the stamp world since the last meeting of the Society.

In the absence of the Rev. Dr. Highwood, the motion standing in his name for the formation of an exchange section was left over.

The President gave a display of Abyssinian stamps, and also showed various parts of his collection, including some fine Transvaals and other British Africans.

The next meeting of the Society was to be held (by kind invitation of Mrs. Collins) at Dunorlan, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday, 14 November.

Leicester Philatelic Society

A MEETING was held at Winn's Café on Wednesday, 1 November, of stamp collectors of Leicester, with Dr. R. M. West in the chair. In opening the chairman remarked that a town of 260,000 should most certainly possess a Philatelic Society. Stamp collectors did not appear to even know of each other's existence, and it was time they joined hands and formed a really active society. Mr. Sansome proposed that the Leicester Philatelic Society be formed, which was carried unanimously. After considerable discussion rules were adopted and the following officers elected:—President: Dr. R. M. West. Secretary: Mr. J. W. H. Goddard, 14, Church Avenue, Glenfield Road. Treasurer: Mr. T. B. Widdowson. Committee: Mrs. Scott, Mr. J. G. Boulton, Mr. C. J. Ellis, Mr. W. Gadsby. Place of Meeting: Winn's Café, on the first Wednesday in the month.

The following offers of displays were made, dates to be arranged by the Committee: British Colonials, E. Heginbottom, B.A.; Persia, J. G. Boulton; Asiatics, W. Gadsby; Colonials, Dr. West.

A goodly number of members were enrolled, and the Society was started with every prospect of a useful career.

Liverpool Philatelic Society

President: Herbert Woods.
Secretary: W. Halfpenny, 28, Dacey Street, Liverpool.
Meetings: Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. 7 p.m.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the above Society took place on Monday, 23 October, 1905, at the Angel Hotel, Dale Street. There was again a large attendance, and after the minutes had been read and other business completed, a paper on "Dominica, B. W. I.", was read by Mr. Cuthbertson. This gentleman's efforts are always looked forward to, and his paper fully satisfied all expectations, as it contained much valuable information without becoming a cut-and-dried epitome of the catalogue. A good display of the stamps of this little colony was made by the members, also a display of the issues of Cuba, several exhibitors being very strong in early issues. The usual votes of thanks having been given, the meeting terminated.

The next meeting (6 November) promises to be of especial interest, as Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, President of the Manchester Philatelic Society, has promised to exhibit his superb show of the stamps of Roumania, and to read a short paper on the same. All friends interested in Philately are cordially invited to be present.

North of England Philatelic Society

President: G. B. Bainbridge, J.P.
Hon. Sec.: Mark Easton, 43, Sidney Grove, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Meetings: Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE usual monthly meeting of this Society was held on Thursday evening, 2 November, at 7.30, Mr. T. D. Hume, the Vice-President, in the chair. The minutes of previous meeting were confirmed, and three new members, Messrs. Sidney Annandale, Charles L. Bagnall, and Percy Bell, were elected, making the membership fifty-seven.

Mr. W. H. Ritson, J.P., then showed his excellent collection of British Colonials, which contains many mint first issues, and the fifteen members present had an enjoyable meeting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ritson on the motion of the Chairman, to which Mr. Ritson responded.

The Herne Bay Philatelic Society

8, Promenade Central.

THE above Society has just been formed. President: R. MacLachlan, J.P. Vice-Presidents: F. H. Barwood, G. Oyston. Hon. Counterfeit Detector: C. Kräuter. Hon. Treasurer: G. Dukes. Hon. Secretary: T. F. Newton. Committee: Major P. F. Brine, Capt. Cope, Messrs. B. Admans, H. Coleman Daniels, C. S. Greenhead, R.A.M., T. S. Harvey, W. G. King, T. Knight, J. L. Moone, T. Ridout, and R. G. Wells.

Objects: Reading of papers on Philately, circulation of an Exchange Packet, and formation of Library, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

Queensland, Perf. 9½

DEAR SIR,—There is one statement in the article on Perforations by Rev. T. C. Walton, M.A., in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, 21 October, 1905, page 261, which I think requires correction. It is there said that the Queensland perforating machine gauging 9½ was sent to British New Guinea. When in Brisbane early this year I went over the Government Stamp Printing Office, and there saw the 9½ machine, and obtained a pull from it.

The machine which was sent to British New Guinea was the older machine which perforated 13, and of which I managed to obtain a pull afterwards.

It will thus be seen that the explanation of the appearance of the bogus 9½ perforations is hardly correct. If it were so it would be practically impossible to detect the forgeries.

Yours truly,

LESLIE L. R. HAUSBURG.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

Business More Promising

THERE is, generally speaking, a more hopeful tone amongst dealers in London. They cannot boast of any boom, but of enough additional sales to justify the hope that things are on the mend. Of course the change to chalk-surfaced paper will keep matters lively in the sale of new issues, and the interest which *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* is arousing amongst boys is decidedly telling in the sales of recent issues. Boys have to wait until they have control of more money before they can work backwards through the old issues.

Glendining's Sales.

DURING October, Messrs. Glendining and Co., Ltd., of 7, Argyll Street, Regent Street, W., held two very successful sales. The first of these was on 3 and 4 October, and consisted of the collection of Mr. Sherring, of Bristol, with other property. There were not many rarities, but a good lot of useful stamps, which were keenly competed for by the dealers. Some of the best prices were as follows:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Great Britain, 1d., black, "V.R." | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, O.W. Official, 10d., Queen, used | 2 | 16 | 0 |
| Ditto, O.W. Official, 10d., King, used | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| Cape of Good Hope, 3d., error "THE. EE" | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| Ditto, 5s., watermark CA, fine used block of four | 4 | 15 | 0 |
| Swaziland, ½d., red surcharge, inverted | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| Ditto, ½d., red surcharge, double | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Canada, ½d., imperf, block of six, used on letter | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, 3d., imperf, block of five, unused | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Confederate States, Baton Rouge, 5 c., used on letter | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, and 6d., green, used on piece of original, the 1s. being slightly clipped on one side | 11 | 15 | 0 |
| Trinidad, The Lady McLeod, used, but heavily post-stroked | 6 | 15 | 0 |
| Collections:— | | | |
| In Imperial album, 6803 stamps | 72 | 0 | 0 |
| Of Portuguese Colonials, 2102 stamps | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| In Permanent album, 1487 stamps | 15 | 10 | 0 |
| In Senf album, 5834 stamps | 20 | 0 | 0 |

The sale on 17 and 18 October was a more important one, and contained the collection of Mr. De Lara Cohen, and a portion of the collection of Mr. Schlmenekow. A good many of the best stamps were not in fine condition. The following were some of the best things, with the prices realized:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| Bulgaria, 1882, the error 5 s., rose | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1884, 5 on 30 s., black surcharge, used | 5 | 10 | 0 |
| Finland, the error 10 p., purple-brown, in the colour of the 5 p. | 4 | 15 | 0 |
| France, 1 franc, orange-vermilion, fine, used, on piece of original envelope | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1872, large figure, pair, consisting of 10 c., and error 15 c., bistre on rose, but badly centred | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Great Britain, £5, orange, unused | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Naples, ½ tornese, blue cross, not fine | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| Moldavia, 27 paras, black and rose, cut to shape | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 54 paras, blue on green, square, but rather short | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Levant, brown and blue, used | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Ditto, blue and red, used | 5 | 15 | 0 |
| Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, used | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1853, 3 cuartos, bronze, mended in centre | 11 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1854, 1 real, light blue, fine, used | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Sweden, the error "TRETIO" on 20 öre, vermilion, unused | 13 | 10 | 0 |
| Switzerland, Vaud, 4 c., used | 15 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, Poste Locale, 2½ rp., without frame, used | 9 | 15 | 0 |
| Tuscany, 3 lire, with triangular piece from the bottom of the stamp | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| Philippine Islands, first issue, 2 reales, green, block of four, used | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Portuguese India, 1881, 5 on 20, in a pair, one stamp with clear double surcharge | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Azores, small surcharge, 150 r., blue, perf. 12½, horizontal used pair | 7 | 15 | 0 |

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Guinea, first issue, small surcharge, an entire unused sheet in perfect condition | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Oil Rivers, an unsevered double pair of the ½ on 1d., the upper stamp being surcharged in violet and the lower in red | 15 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, ½d. on 2½d. in green, No. 13, unused | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, ½d. on 2½d. in black, No. 15b | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Zanzibar, French Consular Offices, 1904, set of 9 varieties | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| Brazil, collection in Specialist's album, 1017 stamps | 23 | 0 | 0 |

Missionary Ugandas

THE quaint stamps which the missionaries of Uganda turned out on the typewriter have long been regarded as stamps that must inevitably become rare and very high priced. When they were current they were looked upon as barely entitled to be regarded as postage stamps, but their claim to a place in the catalogue has long since been fully admitted, and now those collectors who passed them over as not worth notice are paying long prices for them. I am sorry to have to confess that I am one of those who missed the opportunity. A fellow collector offered me grand selections on the original envelopes at 4s. each for exchange.

Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper sold a fine lot at their auction on 26 October, 1905. Here are a few of the principal lots:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------|---|----|----|
| <i>Issue of March, 1895.</i> | | | |
| 30 cowries, black, unused | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 40 " " " | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 50 " " " | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 60 " " " | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 60 " " " block of 3 | 6 | 15 | 0 |
| <i>Issue of June, 1896.</i> | | | |
| 5 cowries, violet, unused | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 " " " | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 15 " " " | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 30 " " " | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 50 " " " | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 100 " " " | 1 | 9 | 0 |

Zanzibars in the Ascendant

THERE is no doubt about Zanzibars on Indians being in the ascendant. A fellow collector showed me a photo of a sheet a few days ago which formed part of a lot he had agreed to purchase for £650, and this to add to an enormous collection of Zanzibars which he already possessed.

The following record of a few sales by Ventom, Bull, and Cooper on 21 October, 1905, will give some idea of the prices which specialists will pay for what they want in Zanzibars:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| On Indian, 3 annas, orange, error "Zanzidar", in a mint vertical pair | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, a single mint specimen of this error | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, 3 annas, orange, error "Zanzidar" (inverted "p" for "d"), in a mint block of four | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1 rupee, slate, error "Zanzidar", unused in mint state, but a trifle thinned at back only | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 2½ annas, green, error "Zanibar", unused in mint state | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 6 annas, bistre, error "Zanibar", in a mint horizontal pair | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| Ditto, a single mint specimen of this error | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, 2½ annas, green, variety with italic second "z", in a mint horizontal pair, with full corner margins | 5 | 15 | 0 |
| Ditto, 1 rupee, grey, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n", unused, in mint state | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Ditto, provisional, 2½, in red, on 1½ anna, sepia, an unused part sheet of 86, in mint state, including the two varieties of the "Zanzidar" errors "p" with tail broken off for "n", inverted "x" in "½", and other varieties, an extremely scarce sheet | 40 | 0 | 0 |

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

A Correspondent.—Don't understand your difficulty in getting the 5 and 10 piastres of the first issue of Sudan. They are plentiful enough. We saw rows of them in Gibbons stock book not long ago, and there is no reason that we know of why they should be scarce for some time to come. Of course, when specialists take to collecting all the varieties found in the Arabic characters of the overprint they are more likely than not to get scarce. But at present there is not much sign of any rush in this direction.

S. E. K. (Maidstone).—What you take to be an error in the 1 mark of Finland is only the letters in Russian character.

W. E. V. (Bath).—The old black 1d. English stamp, with the letters "V. R." in the corners, figured in the catalogues for many years, and was a much-prized rarity. The philatelists found that it must be classed amongst those stamps which were "prepared for use, but never issued." Hence its removal from the catalogues and its absence from the catalogues of to-day. Still it is regarded as a desirable rarity by specialists, and fetches from £6 to £7 at auctions.

A. H. (Hull).—Perforations are counted by the number of holes (or points) in the length of two centimetres. Our current English stamps have 14 holes within this space, and are therefore said to be perforated 14. If along the top and bottom edges the counted 12 holes in the two centimetres and 14 at the sides, then they would be said to be perforated 12×14 , which would be termed a compound perforation. " 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$ " means that the holes do not count exactly one or the other, but something ranging from 12 to $12\frac{1}{2}$. " $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ " means that on the top and bottom the perforations measure 12 and at the sides $12\frac{1}{2}$. The top perforation is the first given in naming the perforation.

"Safety paper" is a paper made with properties rendering stamps printed on it safe from fraudulent cleaning.

"Toned paper" is a paper very slightly coloured.

"Thick paper" is just what it says it is—paper thicker than the usual paper used. But it is a term that is generally used in a relative sense; i.e. when in a series some stamps are said to be on thick paper, it generally means on thicker paper than the preceding, or following, series.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I, all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward I. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in a cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kind co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

NOVEMBER, 1905

18. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; 6 p.m. Paper and display—Colombia, Republic and States; A. H. L. Giles, R.N.; 8 p.m. Display—African Colonies II, Gambia and Gold Coast; 9 p.m.
20. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Discussion—Collecting as a Hobby, opened by J. Hughes. Displays of British Bechuanaland and Panama.
21. Leeds Philatelic Society: Display—British Guiana, with Notes by J. H. Thackrah.
Herts Philatelic Society: Display of West Australia, with Notes by L. L. R. Hausburg.

- 23 & 24. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
24. Manchester Philatelic Society: Display of Orange Free State, with Notes by W. D. Beckton.
London Philatelic Society: Mr. B. D. Knox. A Paper entitled "The Malta Local Post and its Stamps," with Display.
- 28 & 29. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
30. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 22
Whole No. 47

25 NOVEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

by EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Bahamas



THE Bahamas have the honour of being the first land of the New World touched by Columbus. For many years there has been much controversy as to which of the Bahamas islands was the precise one on which Columbus first landed, but the most recent investigations

decide the question in favour of Watling's Island. The native name for the island is Guanahani, but Columbus rechristened it San Salvador, in gratitude for his deliverance from the sea. Since then some one else has named it Watling's Island, by which it is now more generally known.

In all the Bahamas group comprises twenty larger islands, 653 islets or cays, and 2387 reefs. These stretch from the east coast of Florida to the north coast of Hayti, a distance of 600 miles. The Gulf Stream flowing through the Florida Strait forms the northern boundary, and the old Bahama channel separates the group from Cuba. The chain is completed by the Caicos and Turks Islands, which at one time were under the jurisdiction of the Bahamas, but in 1848 were annexed to Jamaica.

The early inhabitants were shipped off wholesale by the Spaniards to work the mines of Hispaniola and the pearl fisheries off the Spanish main.

The first English settlement of the islands was made in 1629. Mr. E. V. Lucas, in his *Historical Geography of the British Colonies*, gives the following interesting account of the early settlement of the islands:—

In 1667, on his way to Carolina, Sayle [Captain William Sayle from the Bermudas] is said to have been driven by stress of weather to land on the island of New Providence, calling it by that name to distinguish it from the then better-known island of Providence off the Mosquito Coast.

So favourable was his report that six of the Carolina proprietors, among whom were the Duke of Albemarle and Lord Ashley, afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury, turned their attention to colonizing it. Their grant from Charles the Second, dated first of November, 1670, included "all those islands called Bahama, Eleutheria, Ucanis (?), Providence, Inagua, and all other those islands lying in the degrees of 22 to 27 north latitude, commonly known by the name of the Bahama Islands, or the Islands of Lucayos." And their attempt at colonization is styled the first legal settlement of the Bahamas, which had long been "a shelter for pirates and a disorderly set of people." In 1671 a governor's commission was sent out, and the Governor and Council were directed to take steps for forming a Parliament, twenty members of which were to be elected.

It would seem, however, that these instructions never reached the colony, for in 1672 the settlers complained to the Governor of Jamaica that they had waited in vain for two years for instructions from the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. In any case, the Bahamas appear to have been left very much to themselves; there was practically little or no government and little systematic settlement. The residents of New Providence continued to deserve the title of disorderly people; if they did not like their governors they shipped them off, and if a pirate like Avery visited their island he had to be dealt with as a friend. In 1680, or 1682, the Spaniards attacked and laid waste the settlement; and in 1703 French and Spaniards combined drove out the English inhabitants, destroyed the fort, and annihilated the colony.

New Providence was now for a few years simply a headquarters for pirates, the most notable of whom was one Edward Teach, a "Bristol man born," a ruffian who, under the name of "Black Beard," became a kind of West Indian ogre. The Bahamas, however, were too well placed for such a state of things to last long. Representations on the subject were made to the British authorities at home, and on the fifth of Sep-

tember, 1717, a royal proclamation was issued and published in the *London Gazette* to the effect that "the usual retreat and general receptacle for pirates [at Providence, the principal of those islands [the Bahamas]]," and that "His Majesty has been further graciously pleased to give directions for dislodging those pirates who have taken shelter in the said islands, as well as for securing those islands and making settlements and a fortification there for the safety and benefit of trade and navigation in those seas for the future." Accordingly, in 1718, Captain Woodes Rogers, whose name is famous in the record of English seamen, was sent out to re-establish regular government and to put down piracy. Himself a buccaneer, though a high-class one, and accustomed to deal with lawless men, Rogers was well fitted for the post for which he had been selected. Law and order were restored, some of the pirates were killed or driven out, others settled down into orderly citizens, a small council was instituted, and colonists were introduced, including a certain number of German families from the Palatinate, who made up the population to a total not exceeding 1000 in all. From this time onward the Bahamas were in all sense a British dependency.

In 1776 New Providence was taken and plundered by an American squadron during the War of Independence. In 1781 it fell into the hands of the Spaniards but in 1783 it was retaken by a few British subjects, headed by Colonel Deveau, who fitted out an expedition at his own expense from St. Augustine, in Florida. The group was finally secured to Great Britain by the Peace of Versailles.

The capital is Nassau, on New Providence, with a population of 12,000. The population of the group was, in 1881, 43,521; in 1891, 47,565; and in 1900, 53,735, mostly of the negro race.

Its Philatelic History

The philatelic history of the colony commences with the year 1859, when Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. engraved the plates of the first penny value and printed and sent out the first supply of penny stamps. According to the London Philatelic Society's work on the Stamps of the West Indies, plates of 1d., 4d., and 6d. values were engraved by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., and each plate was made up of sixty stamps in six horizontal rows of ten stamps. The first stamp issued was printed on unwatermarked paper and issued imperforate. In 1861 all three values, i.e. 1d., 4d., and 6d., were issued; the 4d. and 6d. were of the same design and differed from the 1d. value. This series was also printed on unwatermarked paper, but the stamps were perforated. In 1863 the same values and designs were printed on paper watermarked Crown CC, with a 1s. value

added of separate design. In 1882 the 1d., 4d., and 1s. were issued on Crown CA paper. A provisional 4d. was provided in 1883 by surcharging the 6d. with the word FOURPENCE in black. In 1884-90 a full series of new and uniform design was issued. In 1901 a bicoloured 1d. pictorial stamp was issued, showing a view of the "Queen's Staircase." In 1903 5d., 2s., and 3s. stamps were issued in the same pictorial design. The King's Head series was issued in 1902, watermarked Crown CA, and is still current, but any day may bring us the change to the multiple watermark.

In the opinion of many philatelists the first penny of Bahamas is one of the prettiest stamps in the whole range of British Colonial issues.

1859. One value of One Penny, designed, engraved, printed on unwatermarked paper by Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co., and issued imperforate.



No wmk. Imperf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-----------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., lake | 10 0 | 60 0 |

1861. Three values—1d., 4d., and 6d. The 1d. was of the same design as the previous issue, and the 4d. and 6d. of a different design, as illustrated. This series was printed on unwatermarked paper, as before, but the stamps were perforated.



No wmk. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., lake | 60 0 | 20 0 |
| 4d., rose | £8 | 35 0 |
| 6d., lilac | — | 30 0 |

1863. Four values. The 1d., 4d., and 6d. designs as in previous issue, with the

addition of a 1s. value of separate design, designed and engraved by Messrs. De la Rue. All printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. on paper watermarked Crown CC and perforated.



Wmk. Crown C C. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., red | 5 0 | 5 0 |
| 4d., rose | 12 6 | 7 6 |
| 6d., violet | 4 6 | 1 6 |
| 1s., green | 2 0 | 2 0 |

1883. Provisional.—The 6d. stamp of the last issue surcharged horizontally with the word FOURPENCE, in black, in Roman capitals.

FOURPENCE

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| FOURPENCE on 6d., violet | 40 0 | — |

1884-98. Seven values of one uniform design, designed and engraved by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., and printed by them upon paper watermarked Crown CA and perforated.



Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1d., carmine | 0 2 | 0 3 |
| 2½d., blue | 0 5 | 0 2 |
| 4d., yellow | 0 9 | 0 8 |
| 6d., mauve | 1 3 | 1 3 |
| 1s., green | 3 0 | — |
| 5s., sage-green | 10 0 | 10 0 |
| £1, Venetian red | 30 0 | 30 0 |

1901-3. Four values of a new pictorial design, engraved and printed, in two colours, by Messrs. De la Rue and Co., representing what is termed the Queen's Staircase, a mysterious curiosity in the neighbourhood of Nassau. The central picture shows a great passage-way cut through the solid coral rock for about an eighth of a mile in length. It is 40 ft. wide and 70 ft. deep, and at the end is what is called the Queen's Staircase (cut in the rock), which leads to Fort Fincastle,

built, about 150 years ago, on high land just above the stairway. The exact object of this cutting is not known, but it is presumed it was to allow the soldiers to pass to and from the harbour and fort without observation.



Wmk. Crown C.C. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| rd., red, centre black . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 5d., orange " . . . | 0 7 | 0 7 |
| 2s., ultramarine, centre black | 2 6 | — |
| 3s., dark green " . . . | 3 9 | — |

1902. Seven values, King's Heads, all of uniform design, designed, engraved, and printed by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. on paper watermarked Crown CA and perforated.



Wmk. Crown C.A. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| rd., carmine . . . | 0 2 | — |
| 2½d., ultramarine . . . | 0 4 | — |
| 4d., yellow . . . | 0 6 | — |
| 6d., brown . . . | 0 8 | — |
| 1s., grey-black, value carmine | 1 4 | — |
| 5s., lilac, value blue . . . | 6 6 | — |
| £1, green, value black . . . | 24 0 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

STAMP COLLECTING AS AN INVESTMENT FOR BEGINNERS

By CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

(Continued from page 328.)

IN selecting a "field of operation" the investing collector must be to a large extent guided by his means.

Another point is that he must not let fashion influence him too much. At the present time the fashion is for Africans and Australians, and prices in these groups are high, but they are certainly debenture stocks.

A few years ago Europeans were the fashion, before that West Indies and North Americans; but I have noticed that almost every country has a turn, and although in stamps, as on the Stock Exchange, one cannot forecast the future, yet I have no doubt that in a few years'

time the now despised South and Central Americans, etc., will all be in demand, and those who have patiently acquired fine special collections will reap a rich harvest.

For investment purposes, then, I advise the formation of special collections of one or more countries; but to make a success the collector must not only accumulate a large mass of material, but must study all that has been written on his particular country, and then study the stamps themselves, and endeavour to find out more than is known by any other collector about his particular subject.

To do this successfully his mass of material must be of good quality. Dated

copies, stamps on letters, bisected stamps used for a moiety of their value—all have use and all tend to increase the commercial value of a special collection. Generally speaking, I find that unused stamps pay best, and a special collection should be chiefly of unused stamps, with a judicious admixture of used stamps, etc., as named above.

In considering the selection of a country or group to take up, the question of the amount to be invested is of the first importance, and I think that, broadly speaking, we can divide collectors who wish to invest money in stamps, combined with study and relaxation from other affairs, into three classes:—

First. The collector who can spend under £20 per annum.

Second. The collector who can spend from £20 to £50 per annum.

Third. The collector who can spend over £50 per annum.

Class I.

Norway and Sweden. The used stamps are mostly very cheap. There is a fine lot of shades, and through the political changes now taking place the stamps should advance in value.

Bosnia. Cheap stamps, both used and unused, plenty of varieties, and no doubt much still remains to be found out about minor types and varieties.

Great Britain, used. In fine condition, are not common, are *always* in demand, and practically sure to show a steady advance in value.

Belgium. A good selling country; used stamps quite cheap, but want a lot of hunting for in good condition.

British Somaliland. A small group, but interesting, and with a great many minor varieties; a nice collection will always be a good seller.

China. Mostly cheap stamps, but with a lot of rare shades and scarce varieties, the older issues gradually rising in value.

Denmark. A very cheap country if you keep to used stamps; great scope to hunt for rare shades.

Egypt. I can strongly recommend this country; most of the stamps are cheap at present, but a few of the knowing ones are making fine collections, thinking that

one day this country will be a British Protectorate and be included in British Colonies, when a great demand would soon cause the prices to go higher.

Falkland Islands. A small lot, but old issues scarce and good, and sale easy.

Gambia. A small country, but sound and good stamps pretty sure to increase in value.

Holland and Colonies. A very interesting group, worthy of more study than they get here, and unused especially getting quite scarce.

Jamaica. Used and unused prior to 1872 certainly undervalued.

Russia. The recent war has created quite a demand for this country. The older issues are pretty and quaint, and a collection should be easily saleable.

Seychelles. A safe little country in which to put a small sum. The obsolete stamps *must* rise *considerably* in next few years.

Zululand. A small but sound lot of stamps. The beginner might omit the postal fiscals.

Class II.

Argentine Republic, up to 1890 and omitting the Officials, is an interesting lot of stamps with a ready sale.

Austria is a big country to really specialize, but used stamps are cheap, and a collector who took this up seriously would soon be able to pick up rare varieties in perforations and types that would be overlooked by the general collector. In this country also one should look out for many quaint and interesting varieties of postmarks on the first three issues.

Brazil. Well worthy of more attention than it receives. It is worthy of note that Brazil was the second country in the world to adopt the system of paying postage by means of adhesive labels.

Chili. An interesting country; the old issues getting scarce, and rarities can be found by careful search.

Fiji Islands. Much to learn here. A fine subject for study, and more worthy of collectors' attention than it has received.

France. These stamps always sell well. The used are cheap, unused getting rarer

every year, and a good collection can always be easily sold.

Greece. A hard country to master, but once understood few will pay better. A grand lot of shades here; used stamps quite cheap; dated copies very desirable, as they help to separate printings.

Hong Kong. A nice little group; undervalued at present, both used and unused.

Chamba, Gwalior, Patiala, etc. A nice little group; many unlisted varieties, and worthy of more attention than they receive. The Queen's Head stamps should show a good increase in value in next few years.

Japan. The war has caused many people to take up this country, and now that it is so closely allied to Great Britain by treaty and mutual interest, and to the United States by President Roosevelt, "The Peace Maker," I anticipate a great demand and increased value for these stamps.

Lagos. A good safe little lot, sure to increase in value.

New South African Republic. Much rarer stamps than most people think, and well worth getting, if you can find any. I have been trying for two years to get a set together, and still want many dates.

Prince Edward Island. Well worthy of attention; many minor varieties, several varieties of perfs., and not at all properly listed or valued at present.

St. Helena, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Sierra Leone. All good sound countries; stamps that are sure to advance in value and prove a good investment.

Siam. Much to study here; a small investment should pay well.

Turkey. Very much neglected and worthy of more attention. The earlier issues are getting scarcer each year, and I find a pretty good demand for them. I should advise beginners, at any rate, to omit the Government Locals; there are many imitations of the surcharges, and not much demand for them.

(To be continued.)

CANCELLATIONS ON HONG KONG POSTAGE STAMPS

By C. A. HOWES, S.B.

(Continued from page 334.)

WE now come to another form of cancellation, which is quite frequently found on the earlier stamps, and this is



TYPE IV.

perhaps the most interesting. We will call it general Type IV, and describe it as an upright oval formed of bars which enclose a serial number. This time the form re-

mains constant and the numbers change, so that each specific form of the general type must be sub-lettered. The various numberings, so far as known, are as follows:—

Type IVa contains number A 1

„ b „ „ C 1

„ c „ „ F 1

„ d „ „ M 1

„ e „ „ N 1

„ f „ „ S 1

„ g „ „ S 2

„ h „ „ Y 1

Now a glance at this list, after the explanation we have given concerning the establishment of agencies at the Treaty Ports, and the Treaty Ports we know to have had them, gives the clue

to the numbering. **A** stands naturally for Amoy, **C** for Canton, **F** for Foochow, **M** for Macao (I give this on the strength of Mr. Mencarini's statement that Hong Kong had an agency there, and that he has seen the cancellation **M1**; I myself have never found this), and **N** for Ningpo. The last three need a little more study. **Y1** is quite common and can hardly be any other than Shanghai, while **S2** is quite scarce and doubtless can be no other than Swatow.

Y has proved a stumbling-block, either being "given up" or credited to Yuensan, Korea. But this is just where a knowledge of history and conditions in the Far East helps one out. No Korean port was opened before 1876, when the Japanese were given the right to trade at Fusan. Chemulpo and Yuensan were not opened to foreign trade and residence (nor was Fusan) until 1883. Add to this the fact that only Japanese and the Chinese Customs Post Offices were ever in operation at these ports, and where does Hong Kong come in, especially when the cancellation is found on stamps issued before 1867? The answer seems simple, though we have a choice of two places. We have already questioned the establishment of an agency at Chefoo, for there is not now a Hong Kong agency there, and I have so far been unable to discover that there ever was one. It would seem probable, however, since all the other Treaty Ports opened up to that time had received them. In this case it might be that the name of the native town, Yentai, *vide* the Chinese characters on the local

stamps of this port), where the Foreign Settlement is located, furnished the initial **Y**, as **C** was already appropriated to Canton. The other candidate is Yokohama, Japan. In the *Stamp Collector's Magazine* for May, 1868, is a copy of a notice from the Postmaster-General of Hong Kong, dated 18 August, 1864, in which we find the following sentence: "I have to request that, on and after the 15th October next, you will discontinue to receive money in payment of the correspondence posted at your office, and you will demand that such payment be made in the postage stamps of the colony of Hong Kong." This was directed "To H.B.M.'s Packet Agent, Yedo," and applied not only to Yedo (Tokio), but also to its Treaty Port of Kanagawa (Yokohama). The same journal, in November, 1865, stated that the use of Hong Kong stamps had been extended to Nagasaki, while in 1868 the port of Hiogo (Kobe) was opened and an agency established there.

And it might seem a foregone conclusion that Yokohama, and not Chefoo, should be the successful candidate, but the informant of the *S.C.M.* further states (May, 1868): "I have seen many packets from Kanagawa, and the stamps have always been postmarked with the **B 62** which is found on all the labels of that colony (Hong Kong)." The question is evidently still open until some one produces an original cover which will definitely settle it. This ought not to be a particularly hard task, as the **Y 1** cancellation is not by any means rare.

(To be continued.)

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

WORK FOR WINTY EVENINGS

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 331.)

Cleaning

NO attempt should ever be made to remove or improve obliterating postmarks. The less a stamp is doctored, the better. Many are the chemical substances which are suggested as a means of improving stamps disfigured by ink or dirt. Alcohol, ether, benzine, caustic potash, Marseilles soap, and sulphuret of carbon have all been brought into use for this purpose. The only safe method of cleaning or improving the appearance of a stamp printed in *fast* colours is to wash the surface lightly with a fine sponge soaked in clean water.

Trimming

I have a Trinidad 6d., green, stamp in my collection which puzzles me. Its margin has been cut so that nothing appears but the design. To what issue does it belong? If the stamp had not been cut close, I should know at once. As it is, I am in doubt, and unfortunately no one can help to remove the doubt. It may belong to the imperforate series of 1859, or it may be one of the four differently perforated series issued between 1859 and 1861. Most probably it is a perforated stamp cut close so as to make it appear imperforate, and, by this means, bring it under the issue of the more valuable stamp. In any case, the stamp is worth little. And what is the moral? Never cut off the margin of an "imperforate" stamp. If you do, you probably destroy the only means of identification. Nor should the perforations be trimmed or cut in any way, for these perforations are often the means, not only of distinguishing between issues, but also of distinguishing a genuine stamp from a forgery.

Hinging

In these days it is scarcely necessary to advise young collectors not to fasten unused stamps in their albums by means of the original gum on their backs, and also

not to paste used stamps down after the manner of wall-paper. When placing a stamp in an album, two things have to be borne in mind. First, there must be a means of examining the whole stamp, front and back, without being obliged to take it out of the album.

Secondly, the stamp must be so fixed to the page that it cannot fall out, and yet, at the same time, it must be able to be easily extracted without tearing either the stamp or the album. The reasons for these two considerations are readily seen when one wishes to see the watermark, or count the perforations, or remove the stamp from one album to another. In order, then, to meet these requirements, small hinges of gummed paper are made. These hinges are known by the name of "Stamp Mounts." Good ones can be obtained at the rate of one thousand for a shilling. The cheap hinges, made of thick paper and coated with inferior gum, should be avoided. The method of using these hinges comes under our next heading.

Mounting

Formerly each collector made his own hinges. This took up a large amount of time, and consequently the practice has almost disappeared. Collectors nowadays are glad to be able to procure hinges ready made. The size of the hinge chosen varies with the needs of the individual collector. Does he merely wish to fasten the stamp to the page of his album, then a small hinge (e.g. Gibbons No. 1 or No. 4) is all that he needs. Does he wish to have space on the hinge for inserting details respecting the stamp, such as date of issue, watermark, perforation, price paid, etc., then he requires a larger hinge (e.g. Gibbons No. 3). But whatever size of hinge he chooses, the method of fixing is the same. From one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch of the strip is fastened to the edge of the back of the stamp and the remainder gummed to the

back of the space which the stamp is to occupy. The question is: Which edge? It was formerly my custom to fasten the hinge to the top edge of the stamp. Mr. Editor once did me the honour to quote me as an advocate of this system. He will now be pleased to learn that I am a reformed character. Undoubtedly the left-hand side of the stamp is the place for the hinge. Stamps so hinged open with the album. They are not so liable to catch the edge of the leaves, and they have this additional advantage, that the watermark may be seen the right way up when the stamp is bent back on its hinge. In the case of imperforate stamps this method of mounting stamps is perfect, for the hinge may be doubled down exactly along the side of the stamp. Not so, however, with perforated stamps. If the hinge is doubled down along the outer line of the teeth, the gum of the hinge shows between the teeth of the stamp. If, on the other hand, the hinge is made below the teeth of the perforation, the teeth of the perforation are creased when the stamp is turned back. It is a choice between two evils. The collector must settle the matter for himself. Personally, I allow the hinge to be seen between the teeth rather than run the risk of bending the perforations when examining the back of the stamp.

Arranging

The matter of arranging stamps, so as to make them as attractive as possible, is important. The collector who uses an illustrated album, with spaces marked out for every stamp, has to adopt the methods of arrangement already planned for him. The user of the blank album has a wider scope. He may arrange his stamps in many ways, each differing from the rest. A little preliminary thought will soon determine the exact geometrical design which will be most fitted to set off the stamps in their most pleasing form. Naturally he mounts in sets. Suppose

the set consists of six stamps. Then he places four of the stamps in the centre of the sheet in the form of a square which measures some two inches in the side. The remaining two stamps of the series are placed, one vertically above the middle of the upper side, and the other vertically below the middle point of the base, at suitable distances. In other words, the stamps are arranged in rows such that one stamp figures in the first row, two in the second, two in the third, and one in the last row. If the stamps are mounted in this order, symmetrical to the middle point of the sheet, the result will prove to be as attractive a design as the wit of man can devise.

In the case of a series of eight stamps, the number of stamps in the rows might be as follows: One in the first, three in the second, three in the third, and one in the last row. Thus a hexagonal design is produced. Similarly a series of nine arranges itself into a diamond-shaped design. The only objection to this method of arrangement is the large amount of space involved. To do the thing properly one must be very prodigal in the matter of paper. In cases where the number of stamps to be mounted runs into thousands I should be inclined to mount all common issues in the usual method of long rows covering the page, taking care to keep each series distinct. But in the case of rare or striking series I should most certainly contrive to give them a worthy setting, and this could only be done by reserving a number of sheets so that they might be mounted in the decorative style which I have outlined above.

In summing up the matter of decorative arrangement, I can only add that the greater the care displayed, the greater will be the delight afterwards, and the more certain will the collector be of finding a good market for his stamps should he be so unfortunate as to be compelled to part with his treasures.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII, or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$; available for mounting stamps, $6\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{2}$. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Australian Commonwealth.—In Vol. I, p. 364, we illustrated the new watermark of Crown over A about to be used for the printing of the stamps of the Commonwealth. That illustration was made from a sample sheet which fell into our publishers' hands. As we pointed out at the time, there was an error in the marginal watermark inscription of AUSTLAIA for AUSTRALIA. Apparently as a consequence of this marginal error, a new Crown over A watermark was prepared, and the stamps now being printed are on this new paper. We illustrate this new watermark.



We presume none of the paper first referred to has been used.

Crete.—Our publishers send some curious plasters, said to hail from this unrestful island. They are unable to say definitely whether these stamps are issued



under any justifiable authority. Plaster No. 1, representing a sorrowful, ruminating lady, is the type of

the lepta values; and the portrait, presumably of Prince George, that of the two high values.

Perf.

- 5 l., orange.
- 10 l., grey.
- 20 l., mauve.
- 50 l., blue.
- 1 dr., red, centre violet.
- 2 dr., green, centre brown.

Switzerland.—We illustrate the Cross watermark now being used for Swiss stamps as already chronicled by us.



Tasmania.—On p. 338 we chronicled the 1d. printed on the new Commonwealth watermark paper, and *Ewen's Weekly* now announces the receipt of the 3d., brown, of the same pictorial issue.



Wmk. Crown A. Perf.

- 1d., rose-red.
- 3d., brown.

Victoria.—The 2d. value has appeared on the new watermarked paper Crown A. We have already chronicled the 1d. on this paper.



Wmk. Crown A. Perf.

- 1d., rose.
- 2d., violet.

MISCELLANEOUS

Penny Postage to Egypt

PETITION, which has been forwarded to Lord Stanley, asking him to exert his influence with a view to establishing penny postage between Egypt and the British Empire, has been signed by several hundred passengers on board the P. and O. steamer *Macedonia*, outward bound for India, China, and Australia. The petition says it is naturally regarded as an irritating and anomalous burden that, while the postage between Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, and India on the one hand and England on the other is one penny only, it should be still 2½d. between England and Port Said, Cairo, and Suez, and that there is reason to believe that the Egyptian Government and people are entirely favourable to the proposal for a penny postage. Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., a passenger in the *Macedonia*, writes that he has had a letter from His Excellency Saba Pasha, Postmaster-General of Egypt, cordially approving of penny postage (universal). He adds that the cost to England would be, on the 1,200,000 letters to Egypt, £7500—a mere bagatelle. Among the signatories of the petition are Lord Chelmsford, Governor of Queensland, Supreme Court Judge Bigge, of India, and many distinguished officers, Civil Service officials, merchants, and other influential residents in the various parts of the British Empire.

The Earl of Crawford's Cruise

LORD CRAWFORD has left England for the long and interesting yachting cruise which he has planned to South America, South Africa, Ceylon, and the islands of Madagascar. His yacht, the *Valhalla*, is a 1400-ton boat, one of the best sailing boats of her size in the country; but she cannot carry coal for much teaming, and her owner prefers to sail. The yacht will go almost direct to Tristan da Cunha, Lord Crawford having promised to deliver the mails there; then southwards to the little islands known as St. Paul's Rocks, where some famous sharks, striped and coloured like tigers, disport themselves. In the islands round here are rare birds which Lord Crawford hopes to bring home to the British Museum.—*Daily Mail*.

Extension to Africa

From here the *Valhalla* will cross to South Africa, where one of Lord Crawford's sons, who is on board, proposes to settle, and the rest of the party will then go on to Madagascar. Lord Crawford, who has a great penchant for small islands—the less inhabited the better—hopes to visit among others the famous little island near Admiral Rojdestvensky's erstwhile anchorage in Madagascar, which Mr. Walter Roths-

child rents for £70 a year in order that the rare tortoises on it may rest undisturbed. His party being already rather a large one, Lord Crawford was reluctantly obliged to refuse many requests from missionaries of several denominations to be taken to the rarely-visited islands where he will call.

The Russian War Stamps

WE gather from a letter which our publishers have received from Mr. Breitfuss that the fund for the widows and orphans of the Russian soldiers has not received as much benefit from the sale of these stamps as had been hoped. He sends us a translation of a report upon the subject, which has been published in the Russian papers, as follows:—

"The special postage stamps for the benefit of the orphans of fallen warriors, issued to the number of 880,000 copies of all the values together, have produced a net revenue of 17,780 roubles for the benefit of the said fund. Other stamps will not be issued, and after selling out the small remaining stock, which is still on sale in some of the post offices in the principal towns and a few of the provinces, these stamps will have no other than a historical interest, and will have an especial value for collectors of postage stamps."

It would seem probable that the Post Office has reaped most of the benefit, as no doubt but few of the stamps have been used for postage.—*The Monthly Journal*.

Swiss Stamp Designs Competition

A CORRESPONDENT sends us a cutting from the *Luzerner Tageblatt*, 17 October, 1905, of which the following is a translation:—

"As will be remembered, the competition of 1901 for a new design for the postage stamp came to no satisfactory result, although no less than 336 competitors entered with 541 designs. A first prize could not be awarded, but a second, a third, two fourth, and two fifth prizes were given. On October 14th, 1901, the Federal Council empowered the Postal Department to arrange a more restricted competition. The Department referred to recently commissioned three artists to design new postage stamps. Each artist may send in three designs, and the best design of each will be rewarded with £20. The design which the Department of Posts selects for use will receive a reward of £40. The designs were to be submitted by the middle of October, 1905, and they have now been handed in. According to the opinion of the Department of Posts the question will be decided this year."—*The Monthly Journal*.

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

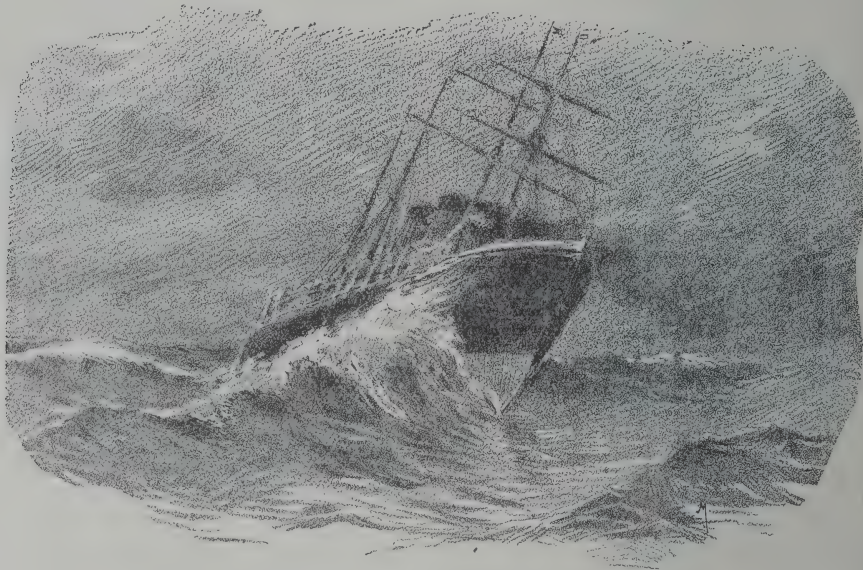
Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a permanent Album we have provided from one to four blank pages after each country, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, 8½ × 11½ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



THE SEA WAS LET LOOSE IN ITS FURY

CHAPTER XXVI

Wherein William and Betty, arriving at the winning post, nearly run a "dead-heat"

DURING the final days of their crossing the wind suddenly began to rise, upsetting the equilibrium of the *Normandie*, and the digestion of most of the passengers. Several, however, were not at all inconvenienced by it—among them Betty and William, who seemed to have received a dispensation from this unpleasant tribute to the stormy ocean.

The very evening before their arrival in port, the sea being let loose in its fury, they were passing the door of the High Admiral's cabin in company with a few other intrepid souls. This part of the deck had become the favourite promenade of those who had not given up all hope of gaining a closer view of the illustrious personage, and who were always seeking, but in vain, to get a glimpse into the carefully closed apartment.

They were just passing then, when some vague sounds issued from the interior.

"Do you hear that?" said one. "One would say that Admiral Campanas is not altogether comfortable!"

And they all drew nearer and listened through the chinks of the door. The High Admiral appeared to be as much tried by the element over which he exercised command as any man could be, and as unable to appreciate its more playful moods as any landsman. He was violently sea-sick, of that there could be no doubt. In the intervals of less acute suffering he would give other relief to his feelings—

"Ah! sacrebleu de nom d'un chien! Ah! sapristi! Then a fresh access of sickness, followed by more language. "Ah! d—n the sea! Ach! Ich arme, Mann! Teufel! Mein Gott!" More sickness, finishing with a fresh imprecation, "Che cattivo mare. Diavolo di maledetto viaggio!"

"This is very learned sea-sickness!" cried William

"Sea-sickness in every known tongue!"

There was a general laugh, and as the state of the sea rendered their position somewhat fatiguing, they retired to the saloon.

But even when, on the morning of the seventh day the steamer reached the smooth waters of the Hudson and was in sight of New York, the High Admiral did not put in an appearance.

"Well, at any rate, we shall see him as we go on shore," said Betty, during the course of their last meal on board the steamer. "I have quite made up my mind to get a close view of him in full daylight."

"You will soon have that satisfaction," said the captain, "for we arrive in less than two hours."

"Very good," said Betty. "At one o'clock in the afternoon, in the month of June, one ought to be able to see clearly. So I propose that we all arrange ourselves in a row on the landing-stage, and that when the High Admiral deigns at length to appear in our midst, we receive him with a respectful ovation, to make amends to him for his seclusion, and to ourselves for our long period of waiting."

"Bravo! Agreed!" was the cry all round the table. "To Miss Betty Scott's health! To the health of Mr. Keniss! To the health of our excellent captain!"

Which was drunk enthusiastically in the best champagne, provided by William as a stirrup-cup.

The *Normandie* once moored, and the visit of the customs officers over, the confusion of disembarkation commenced. A few passengers, followed by their servants, and others alone, carrying their valise baggage in their hands, carefully crossed the moving bridge thrown from the wharf to the boat, to be received with welcomes and embraces from the friends and relations assembled to meet them. These latter wished to carry off the new arrivals at once, but they, instead of proceeding to their carriages, omnibuses, and trains, formed up obstinately into a double line, between which the rest of the people had to pass, they came off the steamer.

"What is it? What are you looking for?" asked the New York friends.

"For the High Admiral Campanas y Banastero, who will have to show himself at last."

And the double line grew longer and longer, being composed now of passengers, customs officers, porters,

were dragging him towards the foot-bridge with the intention of making him land.

"But really, sir, you must leave this boat," said the captain, tired of the scandalous scene.

"Why couldn't you leave me alone? I should have gone when I was ready!"

"But, sir, why did you not receive the customs officers? Say what it is that you want, and give your reasons."

Though he thought the behaviour of the famous seaman most suspicious, the captain was determined to show him to the last the greatest deference. So he followed the group, in the midst of which Admiral Campanas was still struggling, more exasperated than ever now that he found himself upon the foot-bridge and close to his numerous admirers. But suddenly, perceiving William and Betty in the front rank facing him, he made a superhuman effort to get free and escape. His four conductors had to use all their



HE MADE AN EFFORT TO FREE HIMSELF

drivers, sailors, and a continually increasing number of people of all grades. But the High Admiral, who from the port-hole had taken note of the reception prepared for him, absolutely refused to come out or to let anyone whatever enter his cabin.

The captain of the boat, the customs inspector, and the captain of the port assembled in front of his door, discussing the question as to what they should do, not daring to use violence in the case of so high a dignitary, who might, by his complaints, bring about diplomatic trouble. However, they felt they must put an end to the situation somehow. From enreaties, shouted through the door, the captain passed to a summons; then, receiving no answer, he thought himself secure from responsibility and gave the order for the door to be broken in.

The crowd on the landing-stage followed these formalities with great impatience, and a huge uproar arose when they saw four sailors of the *Normandie* drag from the broken-in cabin the High Admiral himself, furious and fighting like a madman.

"Let me go! Let me go!" he cried, seeing they

strength to hold him, and had the greatest difficulty in avoiding falling with him into the sea. One of them, in the confusion of the struggle, seized him by one of his luxuriant whiskers—and to his horror and surprise the whisker came off in his hand!

Roars of laughter and cries of all sorts arose on every side, in the midst of which William and Betty were hardly heard to cry, as they rushed upon the Admiral—

"Spartivento!"

"Sir Oscar Tilbury!"

In the face, so suddenly become smooth, they had recognised, beyond the shadow of a doubt, their cosmopolitan thief, the false Count Orsikoff, who had stolen the Brahmapootra stamp, and whom the Naples police believed to be at Brindisi.

"I've got you, you scoundrel!" cried William, shaking him as if he had been a plum tree.

But Betty had called a constable, and, without any loss of time, summoned him to arrest the pickpocket.

"What is the charge against him?" asked the police officer coldly.

"The charge!" said the girl, "why, it would take me all the rest of the day to tell you. Suffice it that I have been most impudently robbed by him, and many others besides me."

At sight of the police Tilbury-Spartivento-Orsikoff-Campanas rose to a supreme height of audacity.

"Don't dare to touch me or you will hear of it!" said he haughtily.

So in spite of the protestations and assurances of William and Betty the constable hesitated to compromise himself by a manifestation of authority, always dangerous towards people of position. However, he soon reflected that there was some reason for doubting the authenticity of a High Admiral with false whiskers; and as the accusers were well-known New York millionaires, he concluded that their side of the scale at least balanced the other, and, laying his big hand on the Admiral's shoulder, he pronounced the time-honoured phrase—

"I arrest you in the name of the law."

Some more constables immediately threw themselves upon the thief and dragged him away to a carriage, in the midst of maledictions from the crowd, who showed the keenest desire to lynch him, though without in the least knowing why.

"Well," said Betty, as the rabble ran shouting behind the captive's carriage, "I don't think Providence has managed this business at all badly."

"It is almost time for us to toss up," said William, producing from his pocket a bright new dollar, "and this will serve our purpose before long!"

William Keniss and Betty Scott, who had now begun to hope again after believing the game irretrievably lost, drove off to their respective homes, pondering over the curious chance which had brought the thief who had stolen the Brahmapootra stamp over to New York in the very same steamer as themselves. To think they had gone so far in search of this stamp, and all in vain, when they need have done nothing but just wait, since it had arrived at their very point of departure of its own accord, or, rather, thanks to a thief!

But, let us hasten to add, neither William nor Betty regretted their long and picturesque wanderings, for during the journey, in the course of which they had passed several days in most pleasant intimacy, they had learnt not only to know each other, for they had been almost strangers at the beginning of it, but to hold one another in the highest esteem. Our two young philatelists, if they could not bring back from Europe the rarest of all rare stamps, brought something of much greater value—a close friendship, which must soon develop into ardent affection.

But for the moment philately absorbed them, and they could think of nothing but the closing incidents of their voyage, and the unexpected arrest of the sharper who had so infamously and obstinately cheated them during the course of their adventures. So after dinner, moved no doubt by the same feeling that they must have news at any price, William Keniss and Betty Scott each sent out one of their servants to buy all the evening papers. From these they learnt that "An individual of more than doubtful character, after passing for the High Admiral Campanas y Banastero during the whole voyage, had been arrested on landing from the *Normandie* and straightway shut up in the Central Prison."

"That's splendid!" said both the Stamp King and his rival. "I shall be at the Central Prison at the earliest possible hour to-morrow morning."

And so it came about that as the hour of six was sounding from all the clocks in the vicinity Mr.

William Keniss and Miss Betty Scott were laughing! shaking hands before the heavily-barred door, behind which the unfortunate Campanas must be sadly reflecting on the inconveniences that a man has to endure who is not just a common scoundrel, but gentleman, an Italian Commander, a rich boyard, or a High Admiral.

"Come, come!" cried Betty brightly. "We mean to run it close to the very end, and it would be hard to say at the present moment which of us is going to get the victory."

"But the time has come to decide," returned William, "as we arrive at a dead-heat, and in a few minutes, at our request, the stamp is to be extracted from the rather too deep pockets of our illustrious travelling companion. So, according to our agreement, one of us two, chosen by chance, must abandon the strife and, tearing up the paper signed by Prince Albrandi, must give up all right to the stamp."

"We have plenty of time," pretty little Miss Betty hastened to interpose, not being at all anxious to stake her last chance on a toss.

But while they were exchanging these few words William Keniss had twice knocked loudly at the door with the heavy bronze knocker, and slow steps were now heard approaching from the interior, succeeded by a terrifying rattle of chains.

"Ugh! it makes one's blood run cold!" cried Miss Betty.

"Especially if one were going in for good! I can just imagine the face our dear High Admiral would make on hearing such a grinding of bolts!"

"I expect it cost him his second whisker!" At this moment a little shutter, arranged in one of the door panels, opened, and the crabbed face of a gaoler appeared behind the grating.

"What do you want?" he demanded in a surly tone, showing plainly his dislike of being disturbed at such an early hour.

"We wish to speak to the governor."

"The governor? He isn't here."

"What!"

"I tell you he isn't here!" And without another word the sinister fellow slammed the wicket, and William Keniss and Miss Scott heard the renewed sound of steps dying away this time into the depths of the prison.

"This is a queer sort of customer!" cried William furiously.

"You can hardly expect gaolers to be amiable," laughed Betty.

"Well, he might at least have given us some information—told us at what hour and what part of this terribly imposing building we might apply to see the governor. Suppose I knock again?"

"What good will that be? They wouldn't come a second time. And besides, you never know what may happen. They might shut us up for having made a noise at the prison door."

"That would be the last straw!"

"But what are we going to do now?"

"I really don't know."

As they were debating this knotty point a carriage stopped in front of them, and from it issued a man of about fifty years of age, in a big hat with an absurdly broad brim and a long overcoat down to his heels, with a rosette of many colours for a buttonhole. He crossed the pavement to the prison door, and knocked nine times in a peculiar and evidently prearranged manner. Hasty steps were instantly heard in the interior of this American Bastille, and the door was thrown wide open.

"This must be the governor!" murmured William to Betty.

"No doubt," returned the girl. "Speak to him."

(To be continued.)

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4, Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

ON Saturday, 4 November, the third meeting of the seventh season, at Exeter Hall, commenced with an auction sale at 5.30, at which upwards of a hundred members were present. The sale was conducted by Mr. E. A. Gilbert Lodge, F.A.I., the Society's energetic honorary auctioneer, and the whole of the ninety odd lots were rapidly knocked down. The catalogues of the future sales will be posted a few days in advance to any member who subscribes 1s. for the season for them. This amount, together with any lots for inclusion in sales, should be sent direct to Mr. W. A. Gilbert Lodge, 23, Spencer Road, Grove Park, W. The next auction will be held in Exeter Hall on Saturday, 2 December. The lots will be on view at 5.30, and the sale will commence sharp at six. Lots should be sent in by the 25th of the month.

One hundred and eighty members were present during the four and a half hours the hall was open.

At eight o'clock the President took the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Acknowledgments of gifts to the Permanent Collection were made to Mr. A. Selinger; and to the Library to Miss Cassels (miscellaneous); Mr. F. Brewer (*Stamp Collecting as a Pastime*, and *The South African Provisional War Stamps*); also to the publishers of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*; *The Picture Postcard*; *West End Philatelist*; and *Le Postillon*. A large number of Library tickets have been issued, and the way the books are being called for is an earnest of the enthusiasm for real philatelic study among the members.

Gifts for the Library and other communications should be sent direct to the Librarian, Mr. E. A. Smart, 96, St. Mary's Road, Peckham, S.E.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of the following new members: G. Lodge, F. Haigh, M. K. Clarke, Major H. C. Finch, R.A.M.C., C. Egbert Ashby, H. G. Simpson, W. H. Percival, F. W. Mawson, E. O. Stubbings.

The next business was the reading of the report of the Examining Committee awarding the Society's Diploma to Mr. Samuel Buckley in Class A, and Mr. John Steele Higgins, jun., in Class B.

The award of the Diploma to Mr. Higgins lent additional interest to his very beautiful display of the stamps of Great Britain in five volumes. This comprises really two collections, one exceptionally fine unused one, and the other a fine used one. The collection comprised nearly all the rarities in this country, some in strips and blocks, and much delight was expressed on all sides at the splendid display. Mr. Melville proposed a vote of thanks to his friend Mr. Higgins, and said it had taken him six years to get Mr. Higgins to bring his stamps up to London to show the Junior Philatelic Society, but he hoped it would not be six years before they should again have the opportunity of talking stamps with Mr. Higgins, who has been a member of the Junior Society since its first year and is one of the keenest supporters the Society has in its new venture in opening a branch at Manchester on February 2nd.

Mr. James Feeney, in seconding the motion, said that most of them had to be content with single specimens of Officials, but Mr. Higgins, in the thoroughness of his collection, had actually plated them in many instances. Mr. Higgins was in age as well as in name a junior, though his knowledge was that of a senior; and as he was more really (in point of years) a junior

than most of our exhibitors, it behoved the juniors present to recognize his merit as a philatelist by three hearty cheers instead of a formal vote of thanks.

This was done with the accustomed vigour of the juniors.

Mr. Higgins, in replying, was gratified at the reception accorded him on all sides, and hoped he would have the pleasure of showing his stamps to such an appreciative audience again. He was glad that both the diplomas were going to Manchester (loud laughter). Coming from Lancashire himself, he considered that was as it should be (renewed laughter). And when once the Manchester branch of the Juniors was started they should further testify to the forwardness of that city in philatelic matters.

The Society is always glad to welcome visitors to the meetings on simply signing their names in the visitors' book, but the practice of issuing tickets for each meeting has been discontinued. Provincial and other stamp collectors passing through the metropolis are at all times gladly received and welcomed.

Competitive Display—Great Britain

THE report of the Examining Committee appointed by the President to award the Junior Philatelic Society's Diploma for the best collections of the stamps of Great Britain is appended.

According to the Committee's system of marking the collections, out of a possible total of 100 marks the distribution is in the following proportions: Arrangement, 50; Condition, 20; Completeness, 10; Notes (if any), 10; Rarity, 5; Bonus, 5. The best collection must receive 80 marks, or no diploma can be awarded.

Examining Committee's Report—Award of Diplomas

On behalf of the Examining Committee I have the honour to report that the Committee has concluded its examinations of the first series, i.e. Great Britain.

The collections submitted to the examiners, though not numerous, are characterized by a thorough knowledge of the stamps of this country. The competitors are congratulated, not only on the skill of arrangement, but also on the sound judgment displayed in variations of shades, watermarks, etc., which are sometimes found lacking in philatelists of the first order. The Committee specially recognize the fine arrangement of stamps by the younger members of the Society.

In Class A, for competitors over twenty-one years, the Society's Diploma is awarded to Mr. Samuel Buckley, of Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester. This collection is very finely arranged, the notes are copious and original. Many varieties, particularly in Inland Revenues, are noted. This collection, in fact, stands by itself in the class.

The other collections, though not equal in arrangement to the Diploma winner, are of high character, both as regards rarities and condition of stamps.

With reference to Class B, for members under twenty-one years, the Diploma is awarded to Mr. John Steele Higgins, jun., of Manchester. The winner in this section displays a finely specialized collection of unused and used in five volumes, combined with a sound judgment of arrangement and originality of treatment.

The Committee specially commend the collections of Mr. L. H. Crouch, of Aylesbury, Mr. L. H. Newbery, of Brixton, and Mr. J. Russell, of East Greenwich. The arrangement in these is of the highest order.

On the whole the arrangement of the stamps in the junior class is superior to that of the collections in Class A.

R. SHEPARD, *Hon. Sec.*

International Philatelic Union

Hon. President: Judge Philbrick, K.C.

Secretary: T. H. Hinton, 26, Cromford Road, East Putney, London, S.W.

Meetings: Essex Hall, Essex Street, London, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 5s.; Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

THE seventh lantern display given by the International Philatelic Union took place at Essex Hall, Essex Street, Strand, on Wednesday evening, 8 November, when a pleasant evening was spent by members and friends. W. Schwabacher, Esq., Vice-President, ably carried out the duties of Chairman, and contributed an interesting exhibit of Russian revenues and Zemstvo

stamps. Other items were contributed by Messrs. P. L. Pemberton (some new issues and the stamps of Bosnia), F. Reichenheim (varieties of the stamps of France), uncatalogued varieties exhibited by A. B. Kay, described by L. W. Fulcher, and the programme was concluded by an exhibit of some historical postal and fiscal stamps by the Hon. Sec. Some excellent gramophone selections, given by Mr. Blackmore on behalf of Mr. Airlie Dry, greatly added to the enjoyment of the evening, which concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, sub-Committee, and exhibitors.

CORRESPONDENCE

Cataloguing Postmarked to Order

SIR,—During the progress of the auction at the meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society at Exeter Hall on Saturday, 4 November, one prominent member stated that he considered the inclusion of "postmarked to order" stamp prices in our leading stamp catalogue was a blot on such publication.

As such a remark may carry a deal of wrong conviction with it among the "Juniors" who are still on the bottom rung of the philatelic ladder, I think the utterance should be gainsaid, and expression given to the thought that the quoting of these "postmarked to order" emissions in our leading catalogue is rather a shining light than the reverse.

It has been said that there are three grades of stamp collectors, viz. philatelists, collectors, and accumulators (omitting, of course, the Moguls, who to us beginners are a name rather than an actuality), and those who come under the category of either of the two last named, often collect stamps which appeal to

their artistic sense rather than gather them with a view to study and of their worth.

They it is whose cash is spent over such pretty rubbish as the postal labels from Labuan and British North Borneo, and who, but for the "postmarked to order" prices, would labour under the belief that they were purchasing specimens actually used through the post.

Is it not, therefore, rather a boon to the inexperienced that there should be these different prices? It certainly appears to me that to make this distinction between used and "postmarked to order" is a manifestation of honest principles; the latter are only bought by the inexperienced—*who will have them*—and it would be quite an easy matter to foist upon the neophytes, "postmarked to order" specimens at the price of used.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

London, 7 Nov., 1905.

A. PRIORI.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

NOVEMBER, 1905

28 & 29. Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

30. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

Birmingham Philatelic Society: Auction.

DECEMBER, 1905

1. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Grenada, opened by R. F. Chance.

2. Junior Philatelic Society: Auction Sale; Paper and Display—Sarawak; B. W. Hoole. Display—King's Head and Recent Colonials; J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

4. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Paper—"Saxony," by C. N. B. Crowther. Display of Saxony and Ceylon.

7. Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society: Barbados.

Birmingham Philatelic Society: Paper—"Notes on Odd Varieties," by G. Johnson.

7 & 8. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.

8. Philatelic Society of London: Messrs. M. P. Castle and L. L. R. Hausburg. A Paper on the "Retouches of New Zealand," with Display and Lantern Enlargements.

Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—"Russia," by G. B. Duerst.

8. Dundee and District Philatelic Society: Questions and Answers.

11. Scottish Philatelic Society (Edinburgh): Great Britain, R. Kerr.

12 & 13. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

13. International Philatelic Union: Display—India and Ceylon, with Notes by J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

14 & 15. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

15. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Montserrat and St. Christopher, opened by J. H. Abbott.

16. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; Paper—"Hayti for Beginners"; Fred. J. Melville. Humorous Paper—"On Nothing in Particular—Especially Stamps"; W. E. Imeson. Display—African Colonies III: Transvaal from 1878; Natal from 1859; and Orange River Colony.

18. Herts Philatelic Society: Display with Notes—Liberia, H. L. Hayman, Liverpool. Discussion—Collecting as an Investment, opened by W. C. Taylor. Display—United States.

19. Leeds Philatelic Society: Paper by Mr. E. Egly—"The Universal Postal Union: Its History and Progress."

20. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Display—Rare Stamps; F. W. Lake. Ten-minute Papers—Selected. General Sale and Exchange.

29. Dundee and District Philatelic Society: Display—Africa, Part II, with Notes; J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

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Whole No. 48

2 DECEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Benadir



IN the partitioning of Somaliland on the eastern coast of Africa, the treaty of Addis Abeba in 1896 allotted to Italy a strip 180 miles wide along the coast which is now known as Benadir or Italian Somaliland.

This territory, following a British pre-

cedent, Italy by charter handed over for administrative and development purposes to a company styled the Società Anonima Commerciale Italiana del Benadir. But the company was not a success, and fresh arrangements became necessary. In February of this year the following

telegram from Reuter's correspondent at Rome was published :—

In view of the lack of success which has attended the present administration of the colony of Benadir, East Africa, by a commercial company, the Government has decided to assume directly all political and administrative powers.

To give effect to this new policy, the Government has concluded an arrangement with the British Government under which Italy acquires the sovereignty of the ports of Benadir, over which hitherto she has only possessed administrative rights, by the payment of a sum of £144,000 to the Government of Zanzibar.

In accordance with the terms of the agreement, Great Britain secures a station in the territory of Kismayu.

Its Philatelic History

The philatelic history of Benadir started very unsatisfactorily. A series of stamps was printed at the printing office of the Italian Government, but sets got about long before the territory for which they were prepared was administratively ready to make use of them. In fact, the whole printing is said to have been placed at the disposal of collectors, an Italian stamp dealer being given a monopoly and allowed to ask 10 per cent. over face value. For a long time the stamps were regarded as a bogus issue made to dupe collectors.

When the Italian Government took over the control of Benadir it was expected that the stamps would have been withdrawn, but instead of that they have been continued and converted into a *bona fide* issue.

1903. Seven values. Two designs. The Elephant's head design for the two low values, 1 besa and 2 besa (1 besa = $\frac{1}{4}$ anna), and the Lion's head for the anna values. The stamps were designed and printed by the Italian Government Printing Office, and are watermarked with the royal crown used on the current stamps of Italy, arranged sideways on each stamp.



Wmk. Italian Crown. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 besa, brown | 0 1 | — |
| 2 „ green | 0 1 | — |
| 1 anna, rose | 0 2 | — |
| 2 annas, brown-orange | 0 3 | — |
| 2½ „ blue | 0 4 | — |
| 5 „ yellow-orange | 0 8 | — |
| 10 „ lilac | 1 3 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

SURCHARGES

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

A SURCHARGE is a mark or inscription written or printed on a stamp after it has been completed for use. The causes of this are many. Let us consider them in due order.

(1) The first and obvious reason of a surcharge is to create a new value. In 1865 the Kingdom of Italy determined to increase the rate on letters within the kingdom from 15 to 20 centesimi. Now there were a great number of 15 c. stamps in stock. These were accordingly surcharged with "20 c." and issued until a new design for a permanent issue could be produced. The surcharged stock was so great that it was not until 1867 that the permanent "20 c." appeared. An illustration of this surcharge is given below.

C 20



(2) The use of a single plate has led to the printing of the design in as many colours as values. St. Helena is a case in point. The same die (6d.) was used for many years. The different values required were printed in different colours, and the inscription, SIXPENCE, having been cancelled, the new value was overprinted in black.

(3) Surcharges have also arisen owing to changes in currency. The year 1878 saw a change in the currency of Mauritius from pence to cents. Accordingly the 1d., red, of 1863-72, was surcharged with 8 CENTS, the 2d., blue, with 16 CENTS, etc.

(4) Accidents and more often negligence on the part of postal officials cause a lack of certain values. The surcharge has resorted to as a means of supplying the need. The Philippine Islands and some French colonies are prolific in examples of this kind.

(5) In some cases stamps have been borrowed from another country. The first two stamps of Montserrat were borrowed from Antigua. A black line was drawn through the inscription ANTIGUA and MONTSEERRAT printed below. The Straits Settlements likewise converted Indian stamps by surcharging them with a crown and new value in 1867.

Montserrat.



1876

Straits Settlements surcharge on Indian stamps.



THREE HALF CENTS

1867.

(6) Colonies have also transformed the issue of the mother country for their own use by means of a surcharge. Witness the case of the Philippine Islands in which HABILITADO POR LA NACION was surcharged on the stamps of Isabella, 1868-9, while a new series for use in the colony was being prepared. Cyprus, for her first issues, overprinted the stamps of Great Britain with the word CYPRUS in block capitals. One of these, the 2½d., was given away with No. 2, Vol. I, of *G. S. W.*

(7) Surcharges are sometimes used to transform the use of stamps. The addition of the word REVENUE, or some such surcharge, transforms a postage stamp into a revenue or an official stamp. Such surcharges are "Service", OFFICIAL, or H.M.S., etc.

(8) Changes of government cause surcharges to be added to existing series. Take the case of the Transvaal. The year 1877 saw the first British occupation, and the Boer stamps appeared with the surcharge V.R. TRANSVAAL. In 1879, a beautifully engraved series of seven stamps, bearing Head of our late Queen Victoria, appeared. The year 1882 saw the rise of the Second Republic, and the Victorian series surcharged with EEN

PENNY. Boer independence, so far as internal politics were concerned, having been granted by the British Government in 1884, a characteristic Boer series appeared in the following year. We come down to the year 1900. The Transvaal was annexed, and the Boer issue of 1896 was surcharged V.R.I. and afterwards E.R.I. (1901).

(9) A surcharge has sometimes been added for the purpose of identification. The 3d., lilac-rose, 1880, of the Cape of Good Hope was so much like the 1d., red-rose, in gaslight that mistakes occurred. The threepenny stamp accordingly appeared shortly afterwards with a large figure "3". A similar difficulty in identifying the 3d. and 6d., lilac, of the 1880-3 issue of Great Britain led to these stamps being surcharged with a carmine surcharge "3d." and "6d." respectively.

Recognition of the False from the True

The only recognized surcharged stamps are those which have been surcharged by the postal authorities of the country to which they belong. The decree or Government order authorizing the surcharge becomes widely known by means of the various philatelic journals. The surcharged stamps in due course are noted and priced in the catalogues, and any stamp which is surcharged and at the same time does not appear in these catalogues—or if it be a recent surcharge, in the lists published from time to time in the stamp journals—may be considered as privately marked for business purposes or doctored for the purpose of imposing on the ignorant.

But there are forgeries of true surcharges which are of a far more dangerous type than those to which we have just alluded. It is so easy for a forger to take a genuine stamp and surcharge it so cleverly that at first sight it appears to be above suspicion. How is one to know exactly whether the surcharge is the work of the postal authorities who surcharged the stamp, or whether it is the handiwork of the forger, who, by thus transforming a common stamp into a rare one, hopes to bring a little grist to his nefarious mill? One method, generally adopted as a means of identification, is to take a pair of dividers, similar to the annexed illustration, carefully measure the length of the surcharge, and compare the length with

the known length of the official surcharge given in the catalogue.


This, however, is not always an infallible test. A little thought will convince the reader of this. The space between letters in the forged surcharge may be different from those in the true surcharge, and yet the actual length of the forgery may be the same as that of the genuine surcharge. The best method, therefore, is not only to measure the surcharge, but also compare it carefully with the exact reproduction of the official surcharge given in the standard catalogue, such as "Gibbons." It will then be seen at once whether there is any variation in size of letters or spacing between the letters, and so a probably accurate idea as to the nature of the particular surcharge may be formed.

Surcharge Measurer.



Again, should a stamp appear surcharged owing to the absence of stamps bearing the face value in request, one may reasonably expect to hear of the issue of a new series having a stamp with the face value borne by the surcharged stamp. If no new corresponding value appears in the next issue, it is probable that the surcharged stamp is a forgery.

The following is a list of surcharges found on stamps on which the name of the country does not appear:—

| Surcharge. | Country. |
|--|--|
| B.C.A. (surcharged on stamps of British South Africa) | British Central Africa. |
| G. and G. W. (on stamps of the Cape of Good Hope) | Griqualand West. |
|  on Indian ½ anna, blue, and 2 c., brown, Straits Settlements | Sungei Ujong. |
| S.U. on 2 c., brown, Straits Settlements | |
| A crown and value in cents on stamps of India | Straits Settlements. |
| 10 PARA 10, CENTIMES | Austrian Post Offices in the Turkish Empire. |
| 5 — 5 | |
| 1 PIASTER 1, CENTIMES. | |
| 10 — 10, etc. | |
| on Austrian stamps. | |

STAMP COLLECTING AS AN INVESTMENT FOR BEGINNERS

By CHARLES J. PHILLIPS

(Continued from page 354.)

Class III.

Great Britain, unused, mint. Our own stamps in perfect condition are bound to advance in value. The supply is gradually becoming smaller and smaller, and the demand increases year by year.

Cape of Good Hope. Debenture stock, always a safe seller, and always increasing in value. Triangular stamps, specially unused, getting scarce; the issues of 1864 to 1883 much undervalued, and stocks in dealers' hands very poor.

Ceylon. First-class standard stock, safe for steady sale and good, safe rises. The issues of 1867 to 1885, unused, much undervalued at present.

Dominican Republic.—American collectors might do far worse than take up this country; the old issues are getting very scarce, and the last year or two there has been a lot of inquiry for them from a few wideawake people in the States.

It seems highly probable that within the next few years this Republic may be annexed to the United States, and then the value of the stamps will increase by leaps and bounds.

France and French Colonies, mint, unused. French are much rarer than supposed in this country. See how few fine copies any dealer has got. The French Colonies are neglected here, but good collections sell readily in Paris and will in time here.

Italy, with Tuscany, Modena, Sicily, Naples, etc., forms a fine group to specialize. There are few fine copies amongst English dealers, and I think a few years will find a marked appreciation in values.

Natal. Undervalued at present; not easy to get, either used or unused, and in good, steady demand.

New South Wales, New Zealand, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia. In my opinion these countries are still the *soundest*

stamps of all the world in which to invest. They are the best sellers of all the stamps I handle, and there are markets for them not only here and in America, but in France, Germany, Australia, and South America, the reason being that no stocks of the old issues can be found outside Great Britain.

Straits Settlements and Native States are rarer than people think; much still to be learnt about them, and a nice group for an advanced specialist.

Trinidad and Turks Islands are sound countries, both used and unused, if selected copies are taken.

Transvaal. There are few—if any—countries in which the student can find more bargains than in this one; only a few people take the trouble to master the different printings, but once they are learnt it is surprising the lots of really rare stamps that one can find at bargain prices. The forthcoming publication of the Philatelic Society's book on Africa, Part III, will do much to increase our knowledge and the popularity of these stamps.

United States. Advancing in value and demand increasing. Our New York Branch informs us that stocks in America of the old issues—especially unused and fine—are very poor, and a fine collection in good condition will always sell readily, and should show a good return on money invested.

In Class III, for collectors of considerable means, the question of a sound investment is perhaps not so important as that of taking up a country or a group in which they are really interested; but all the same, it is this class that eventually makes the most money when they want to dispose of their collections. The reason, no doubt, is that wealthy collectors get the "pick of the market," and practically absorb the *really fine and rare* stamps, and it is this class of stamp that, if kept for a considerable time, shows a very large profit.

The last few years have seen a great rise in value of *all first-rate goods* in prints, furniture, china, silver, etc., and in a smaller degree the same thing is applying to really rare stamps. The demand increases, the supply diminishes, through absorption by museums, etc., and prices of the *very best stuff are bound to advance*.

Investors of considerable means will be able to select the cream of the market, and while putting large sums in rare stamps, will be practically certain of large increases in value.

In conclusion, I want my readers to

bear in mind that my remarks are made on behalf of the investor in postage stamps, in contradistinction to the collector, and taking this point of view, I have naturally found it necessary to advise those, who seek investments only in stamps, to abstain from many classes that our publishers find it necessary to keep in stock in order to supply the demands of all their customers. For with the *true collector* the money he spends he devotes to his *amusement*, and he is not always thinking of the time when he can get it all back with *compound interest*.

CANCELLATIONS ON HONG KONG POSTAGE STAMPS

By C. A. HOWES, S.B.

(Continued from page 355.)

AS far as I can determine, Hankow and Kiungchow never had an obliterator of the general Type IV. In 1879, however, the British Post Office Department gave serial numbers to the following agencies in Oriental Ports:—

- Type Va, D 27 Amoy, China.
- b, D 28 Kiungchow, China.
- c, D 29 Hankow, China.
- d, D 30 Hiogo (Kobe), Japan.

These numbers occur in obliterations of Type Ia, and may be designated as general Type V. Amoy (D 27) is occasionally met with, but the other three seem to be very scarce. This would naturally be the case with Hiogo (D 30), as the British post offices in Japan were closed in 1879.

This ends the list of obliterations that I have found on the Hong Kong stamps. It is perhaps well to summarize in tabular form, in order that others interested may be able to add their own findings, for this list is only of my own knowledge:—

| | | |
|-----|----------------|---------------------|
| I | Blue and Black | 1862-77 |
| Ia | Black | 1863 to King's Head |
| Ib | " | 1882 |
| II | " | 1880 " " (?) |
| III | " | 1890 " " |
| IVa | " | 1863-1885 |
| IVb | " | 1863-1885 |
| IVc | " | 1863-1885 |
| IVe | " | 1863 |

| | | |
|-----|----------------|-------------------|
| IVf | Black and Blue | 1862-1885 |
| IVg | " | 1863-1880 |
| IVh | " | 1862 (18 c.)-1863 |
| Va | Black | 1863-1882 |

According to Mr. Mencarini, a circular from the Hong Kong Postmaster General, dated 7 September, 1885, called in all these obliterations and ordered that only the dated postmarks should be used for cancelling the stamps. Though I have not been able to get many early Hong Kong covers for examination, the first type of postmark that I find is a circular one lettered HONG KONG above and PAID ALL below. This is struck in red ink on a letter coming from the colony, and may be noted as Type VI. A curious feature about this type is, that I have a number of copies of later date used to cancel stamps, but invariably it is on the 12-cent stamp. In fact, I have seen at least three cancelled copies of the 12 cents on ten dollars which bore the postmark. Used to cancel stamps appears in black; but it would seem as if there were some connexion between this use and the 12-cent value. Can any one explain?



TYPE VI.

What we may call general Type VII, the ordinary type for both the colony and

the agencies. It may be found on all the Queen's Head stamps issued since 1882, and such values of the 1863 issue as were in use since that time. The following varieties are in my collection:—

Type VII*a* lettered HONG-KONG.

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------|
| <i>b</i> | „ | SHANGHAE. |
| <i>c</i> | „ | SHANGHAI. |
| <i>d</i> | „ | CANTON. |
| <i>e</i> | „ | FOOCHOWFOO. |
| <i>f</i> | „ | FOOCHOW. |
| <i>g</i> | „ | SWATOW. |
| <i>h</i> | „ | AMOY. |
| <i>i</i> | „ | NINGPO. |
| <i>j</i> | „ | HANKOW. |
| <i>k</i> | „ | HOIHOW. |

Type VII*b* seems to be the earlier form of spelling Shanghai and Type VII*c* the earlier form of the Foochow postmark—Foochow being a “Foo” or prefectural city. The other names explain themselves except Hoihow; this is the actual *port* of the larger city and Treaty Port of Kiungchow on the island of



TYPE VII.



TYPE VIII.

Hainan. Of the Treaty Ports the postmarks of Shanghai, Canton, Amoy, and Foochow seem to be quite common, in the order named; Swatow is harder to find, but Hankow, Hoihow, and Ningpo seem to be very scarce. One other variety of postmark, Type VIII, occurs with this series, the distinguishing feature being that the name is in a straight line across the circle. I have found but three in this type, Canton and Amoy being alike with date beneath the name and a letter above it, but Swatow having the name directly across the centre, the month and day being above and the year below it.

Type VIII*a* lettered CANTON.

| | | |
|----------|---|---------|
| <i>b</i> | „ | AMOY. |
| <i>c</i> | „ | SWATOW. |

The letter spoken of will be found on almost all the postmarks and is, I believe, used to designate the particular mail then being stamped. With Hong Kong Type VI I have seen them from **A** to **C**; Type VII*b* to **C**; Type VII*c* to **F**;

Type VII*k* to **C**; but for the others only **A**, except that Types VII*d* and VII*g* come also with a star in place of the letter.

About July, 1901 (the day is illegible in my earliest copy), the Hong Kong postmark was changed to Type IX, on which for the first time we have the name of the capital city—Victoria. There is one variation in this, a registered postmark with REGISTERED above and G.P.O. HONG-KONG below. We have then:—

Type IX lettered VICTORIA—HONG-KONG.

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------------------|
| „ IX <i>a</i> | „ | REGISTERED— |
| | | G. P. O. HONG-KONG. |

One other type has just come into use in Shanghai, but whether all the other agencies are eventually to receive the same does not appear at this writing. Type X



TYPE IX.



TYPE X.

is a larger circle than the old postmark, which it otherwise resembles, but it has the letters “B.P.O.” added at the bottom for “British Post Office.” The earliest date I have seen was in December, 1904.

There is but one agency left, I believe, which unfortunately I cannot treat of, as I have not found its cancellation. This is on Liu Kung Island in the bay of Wei-hai-wei. This territory was leased in 1898, and a part of the island purchased in 1900 by the British Government, so that the agency was doubtless opened at about that time.

It is to be noted that all the dated postmarks are invariably in black ink when used as cancellations, but that the obliterations were used first with a dark blue ink, later changing to black.

Hong Kong stamps bearing the Customs or Imperial Post Office cancellation of Treaty Ports, as well as postmarks of Macao, Singapore, Bangkok, Honolulu, San Francisco, and several Japanese ports, are of course those used on “ship letters,” or which failed to be cancelled at Hong Kong on outgoing mail. They have no special significance.

INTERNATIONAL PHILATELIC EXHIBITION: LONDON, 1906

AT the invitation of the Executive Committee the following gentlemen have consented to act as judges at the forthcoming Exhibition: Messrs. Bacon, Beckton, Castle, Major Evans, Lieutenant Napier, R.N., Dr. Diena, Dr. Kloss, Baron A. de Reuterskiöld.

The Committee expect shortly to be able to announce the names of two other judges representing France and the United States of America.

Various questions having been raised as to the exact meaning of certain rules and regulations contained in the Prospectus, the Committee have directed their attention to the matter, and beg to offer the following observations for the guidance of intending exhibitors:—

1. Those who have intimated a desire to enter the same exhibit in more than one class are referred to the note at the foot of the last page of the Prospectus. It is there clearly stated that no exhibit may be entered for more than one class or section, and it may be added that this rule applies to all classes, the Championship included.

2. The cards which the Committee are prepared to supply to applicants will be charged for at the rate of 1s. per dozen, postage extra.

3. The general collections referred to in Class VII must be contained in albums that provide printed descriptions for each stamp, the method whereby the pages are bound together being immaterial. Supplements issued in connexion with printed albums, if shown with the albums, must appear in Class VII, even although printed spaces for each stamp may not be provided in such supplements.

4. General collections referred to in Class VIII must be contained in blank albums that have not been published with descriptions for stamps. It is immaterial, however, whether the albums have a heading on each page with the name of a country or not.

5. The Committee have decided that the word "country" is to include the word "colony." Exhibits, therefore, in Classes VII and VIII must consist of not less than twenty-five countries and (or) colonies.

6. A question has arisen as to the meaning of the words "without limit as to number," contained in Section 1 of Classes VII and VIII. The Committee rule these words to mean "without limitation provided the number exceed 10,000." Therefore exhibits exceeding 10,000 must be entered in Section 1, and exhibits of less than 5000 stamps must be included in Section 3.

7. To prevent misapprehension, attention is specially called to the note in the Prospectus which provides that special collections in Classes I to VI must be shown in separate exhibits. Thus, an exhibitor, showing more than one of the countries named in any particular section, must enter as many exhibits as he shows countries, except in the case of countries specifically named as being grouped together. For example, in Class II, Section 2, where Italy and States and Germany and States, and in Class IV, Section 3, where Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are bracketed together; and in Class III, Section 1, where Oil Rivers, Niger Coast, Northern and Southern Nigeria are placed together, etc. etc. Exhibits for the Championship Class must conform to the grouping as set out in the various sections of Classes I to VI. Collectors are requested to enter specialized countries in Classes I to VI, and not to group them together for entry in Class VIII.

The Executive Committee have much pleasure in notifying that the Philatelic Society of Sweden (Sveriges Filatelist Forening) are giving their cordial support to the Exhibition, and that Consul Sixten Keyser, and Mr. Hilmer Djurling, the President and the Secretary of that Society, have joined the General Committee.

The Executive Committee propose to invite other philatelists to join the General Committee, and the names of those who accept their invitation will be published at a later date.

By order of the Committee,
(Signed)

H. R. OLDFIELD, *Hon. Sec.*

L. L. R. HAUSBURG, *Asst. Hon. Sec.*

17 November, 1905.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Angra.—The 75 c. has been changed in colour from rose to brown on yellow paper.



Colour changed.

75 c., brown, name and value carmine, on yellow paper.

Great Britain.—Levant.—A 2 piastres on 5d., King's Head, has been added to the recently issued series, but the surcharge is 2 PIASTRES without the overprint LEVANT.



Surcharged on King's Head issue.
"2 piastres" on 5d., lilac and blue.

Grenada.—According to *Ewen's Weekly*, "the honour of first illustrating the new pictorial issue of this colony belongs, curiously, to a Spanish publication, the *Madrid Filatelico*. The new Flagship design is small, recalling to some extent the 4½d. Malta. This issue is, therefore, in no way connected with either the 2½d. pictorial postage stamps issued in 1898 or the exceedingly handsome revenue stamps recently issued."

THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, 8½ × 11½ inches. The present edition is arranged in three volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

THE BEST STAMP HINGES.

We have just prepared a new stamp hinge, of convenient size, put up in air-tight tin boxes, each containing 1000 hinges of good tough paper, doubly gummed, and thus easily peelable. Post-free, 7d. per box.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Italy.—Eritrea.—The 20 c. has been altered to 15 c.

Provisional.

15 c. on 20 c., orange.

St. Kitts and Nevis.—Our publishers send us the ½d. stamp on multiple CA paper. This makes the third value on the new paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green, centre mauve.

2d., brown

2½d., ultramarine, centre grey-black.

Tasmania.—The 2d. value has been received on the Crown A watermark paper.



Wmk. Crown A. Perf.

1d., rose-red.

2d., violet.

3d., deep brown.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XXVI (continued)

Wherein William and Betty, arriving at the winning post, nearly run a "dead-heat"

WILLIAM advanced towards the unknown just as he was disappearing into the mysterious passage.

"I beg your pardon," said he. "The governor of the prison, I believe?"

"Yes, sir, at your service."

"Well, Mr. —?"

"Halifax," returned the governor.

"Mr. Halifax—but first let us introduce ourselves. Miss Betty Scott—William Keniss."

"Oh, I know! I know your names. You must be the famous stamp collectors about whom we hear so much."

"Just so, and it is on the subject of a stamp that we wished to speak to you."

"A stamp!" cried Mr. Halifax, in great astonishment, wondering if perchance they could be trying to hoax him. "About a stamp? Pray explain."

"You have among your prisoners," continued William, "one who was arrested yesterday on landing from the *Normandie* on account of a little public manifestation caused by us, who have been shamefully robbed by him on more than one occasion."

"Yes, yes, I know of whom you speak. That ingenious rascal who passed himself off as a high dignitary of Honduras—Admiral Campanas y Banastero."

"That is the name he took during his last passage from Havre to New York, but as a matter of fact he changes his name almost as often as his shirt, and has appeared to us—for we have had the ill-fortune of meeting with him several times—now as Sir Oscar Tilbury, then as Commander Luigi Spartivento, and again as Count Orsikoff."

"Clearly none of these names belong to him," said Mr. Halifax, "and from the inquiry I had begun yesterday evening immediately after his arrest it seems pretty certain he belongs to a gang of cosmopolitan thieves for whom we have been looking a long time, and who, as everything tends to show, have their working and social centre here in New York. Our High Admiral must certainly be one of the most distinguished members of this interesting association, possibly even the president. In any case we must hold him fast, and, no doubt, through him we shall get to know all his accomplices. But I suppose you have come to lodge your complaint against him, so will you kindly follow me to my study?"

Whereupon Mr. Halifax conducted the two young people to his office, leading them through a perfect labyrinth of long, dark passages, from the pavement of which their steps aroused lugubrious echoes.

"We came to see you, not so much for the purpose of lodging a complaint against our thief and making a deposition, which will not be greatly in his favour, as to try to regain possession of a very rare stamp in which Miss Scott and I have equal rights," said William. "This pickpocket of ours took possession of the stamp a few days ago, during a reception at Prince Albrandi's palace at Naples, to which we all—or, at any rate, we two—had been invited. No doubt this man of so few scruples still has the precious little scrap of paper about him, and as it belongs to us we have come to reclaim it."

"But, pardon me," interrupted Mr. Halifax, "to whom does this stamp belong? To you or to Miss Scott?"

"To both of us!" returned William Keniss and Betty Scott in the same breath, as each produced the receipt for a hundred thousand francs, drawn up by Prince Albrandi, in which he recognised the right of each of the young people to claim the Brahmapootra stamp on the day when it should be found again.

"To both of you?" said the governor. "But I don't understand. How can the same thing belong at the same time to two different people?"

"It is a fact, however, in the case of the Brahmapootra stamp," said William laughingly. "And in addition to that, you see, it has already found a third proprietor in the person of the High Admiral, Campanas y Banastero."

"But that does not explain how it comes about that—"

"That we both claim possession of the same object? It is a very simple matter though."

And William Keniss explained the nature of the transaction between Prince Albrandi on the one hand, and Miss Betty Scott and himself on the other.

"Very ingenious!" cried Mr. Halifax. "But you place me in a most embarrassing position, for how am I to know to which of you to restore the stamp? Unless we carry out Solomon's idea—"

"Oh no, no!" cried the rival philatelists with touching unanimity.

"Well, then?"

"Well, Miss Scott and I had better adhere to our original intention and toss for it."

And taking a dollar from his pocket and turning to the little American, he cried—

"Heads or tails, Miss Betty?"

"Heads!" said the girl.

William shook the little piece of gold in his hands for a few seconds, and then tossed it up to the ceiling, which it struck and fell sharply to the floor. The two opponents dashed after it as it rolled into a corner of the room.

"Heads! Heads! I have won!" cried Miss Betty joyfully.

"True!" said William, forcing a smile, though vexed enough at heart at this stroke of fate. And taking from the pocket to which he had restored it Prince Albrandi's agreement bearing his name, he unhesitatingly and with something of an air tore it to pieces before the smiling eyes of his pretty rival.

"It is done," said he. "The Brahmapootra stamp has now but one owner."

In the meantime Mr. Halifax had rung for one of the warders, and given the order for number twenty-three to be brought from his cell. This was now the title by which, for want of a more legal cognomen, the noble and distinguished Sir Oscar Tilbury, Commander Spartivento, Count Orsikoff, and High Admiral Campanas y Banastero was known. He entered the office of Mr. Halifax between two gaolers. He had lost most of the assurance of former days, and hung his head sheepishly. As soon as he recognised William Keniss and Betty Scott, partly from shame at being seen in such a miserable condition after all his splendour, and still more from fear that his victims had spoken out and given a detailed list of all his doings, he turned very pale and sank like a log into one of the chairs placed near the table.

"You see, my friend, you are caught," said the governor, "and it's no use putting on airs, or trying to escape justice. We know, if not who you are, at least what you are worth. What is your name?"

The thief hesitated before replying. What name should he give? It was evidently not the moment for clothing himself in some fresh high-sounding title. So, after a few seconds of reflection, he decided on giving his name, which he let fall from his lips in a piteous, stifled voice.

"James Mamby!"

"Is that your real name?" demanded Mr. Halifax.

"Yes, sir, it is."

"Then stand up, James Mamby, and deliver up the Brahmapootra stamp which, it appears, you stole from Prince Albrandi at Naples, and which you have, no doubt, hidden in the lining of your clothes, since it was not found on you when you were searched yesterday evening. Come along! Give me the stamp!"

"I haven't got it now," muttered the thief.

William Kenniss and Betty Scott stared stupidly at each other. Had the stamp escaped them again, at the very moment when they felt so certain of securing it?

"If you haven't it still, will you have the kindness to tell us where it is?" continued Mr. Halifax.

The prisoner was silent.

"Do you mean to answer me?" said the governor.

"Consider, my friend, confession lessens a fault, and we shall be more indulgent to you if you do not persist in an obstinate silence, which can do you no good at all."

This little speech decided the ex-High Admiral.

"I disposed of the stamp as soon as it came into my possession," he said.

"Did you sell it?" demanded Mr. Halifax.

"No, but not wishing to keep it about me, on account of its great value, I sent it out of Europe to one of my friends the very day after I took it from Prince Albrandi."

"To one of your friends? One of your accomplices, you mean."

The rogue shook his head.

"No, one of my friends," said he.

"It is no use denying it any longer," said Mr. Halifax. "I know everything."

"Everything!"

"You belong to an American gang of thieves whose speciality it is to rob passengers on the main lines of trains and steamers. You were returning from one of your tours in Europe when you were arrested. Is not this a fact, James Mamby?"

"It is."

"You see I am well informed. But if you don't wish us to be too hard on you, you must give up the names and addresses of your accomplices."

"Never!" cried the thief heroically.

"As you will. Your silence will cost you half a dozen years longer in prison."

"Half a dozen years longer!" murmured the poor wretch, trembling in every joint. "I shall be imprisoned, as I have been since yesterday, for half a dozen years longer if I do not speak?"

"Undoubtedly!"

"Then I prefer to speak. The head of the gang, who is also the receiver of our stolen goods, is called Thomas Simpson, and he lives at No. 45, Jefferson Street."

"Very good," said Mr. Halifax. And, turning to the two warders, he continued, "Conduct the prisoner back to his cell."

The two gaolers took the aristocratic pickpocket by the shoulders and hustled him out of the room without the slightest regard for his former nobility.

"Now you know as much as I do," said the governor to our two friends. "I am about to send three or

four of my picked men to try and arrest Master Thomas Simpson. Do you care to go with them? You may possibly be in time to catch him, and to take possession of your famous Brahmapootra stamp."

"Yes, yes!" cried Miss Betty and William together. "We should most decidedly wish to accompany them."

So Mr. Halifax wrote the name, Thomas Simpson, on one of the numerous warrants he had by him, ready signed by a police magistrate, and gave it to one of his cleverest detectives, whom he had summoned for the purpose, saying—

"Here is a chance for you to distinguish yourself, and if you succeed there will be an ample reward. This lady and gentleman will go with you."

"Very good, sir."

"Go at once."

A few minutes later William and Betty started in a carriage for Jefferson Street, in company with four detectives, two on the front seat and two on the box. The carriage stopped at the address given by the thief.

"Mr. Thomas Simpson?" inquired one of the detectives of a tradesman, who was taking a little fresh air in front of his shop, which occupied the ground-floor of the establishment.

"Mr. Simpson? He cleared off this very morning, taking a pile of luggage with him. The landlord is in a furious state, for he has gone without paying his rent, and has not left a single thing behind."

"Nothing whatever?"

"Absolutely nothing but the four walls."

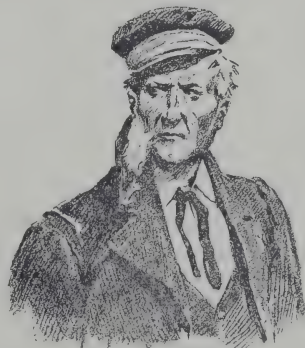
"And he has left no word of his future address!"

"None."

The detective turned to William Kenniss and his companion.

"We are done!" said he. The accomplices of Admiral Campanas y Banastero were, no doubt, waiting for him at the landing-stage; and, having received information as to the disguise he would assume on crossing from Havre to New York, they would have no difficulty in recognising him at the moment of his arrest. Hence their haste to make themselves scarce."

So William Kenniss and Betty Scott took leave of the detectives, and, recognising that at the last moment all hope of regaining the stamp had vanished for ever, they returned in a melancholy mood to their respective homes, after arranging to meet again at the grand dinner of the Philatelic Society which was to be given that very evening—in spite of the fruitless results of so long a journey—to celebrate their return, and render homage to their perseverance and the way in which they had carried through the Old World the glorious flag of Philately.



(To be continued.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

American Notes and News

U.S. Shades

198 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

I mentioned in my last notes that the latest printings of the United States stamps, "series of 1902", showed considerable shade contrast with the early prints. I find that the latest shades in the 4 c., 8 c., and 10 c. values are very marked. The 4 c. is now a deep rich brown, the 8 c. might be called much bluer in its steel tints, and the 10 c. has degenerated in a washy yellow-brown. As this issue is now reported overprinted in all values for the Philippines, it will be interesting to see just what shades come with the surcharge.

Politics and Philately

New York collectors and dealers are anxiously awaiting returns from the polls next Tuesday, Election Day, because we all hope to see Philately gravely seated in the State Senate of New Jersey. Mr. Ernest Ackerman, well known as an enthusiastic collector for many years' standing, is the Republican candidate for Senator from Union County, State of New Jersey, and the papers generally seem to concede his certain election. Go on, Mr. Ackerman, up into the Senate of the United States, and then give us a Parcel Post system and do away with the monopoly of the Express Companies, who charge 2s. 6d. to send a stock book a few hundred miles, and want the price of a house and lot to take anything to San Francisco.

Chicago Philatelically Nowhere

I have just received a letter from Mr. Massoth in Chicago. In brief, he says that our albums and publications are the "finest ever," and that he is going to make some tall sales this winter. Chicago has collectors, no doubt, but it is curious that a town with over two millions of people should be, philatelically, so very dead. Of course, we know of perhaps twenty-five collectors there, but, with one notable exception, no really fine collection of rarities is known to us. Evidently friend Massoth is after them, and when he gets on the warpath look out!!

King's Head Single CA's

There is something wrong with the 2 piastres Cyprus King's Head, single CA; at least we New Yorkers suspect a nigger in the woodpile. I'll wager not half a dozen copies can be found for sale at any price here, and I have heard of its changing hands at about 4s. There are some other King's Heads that need a lot of finding, and I would like to name a few of them here, but as I "ave 'opes" I will refrain from giving an itemized list just now; but, in the strictest confidence, I can mention that a dozen South Niger £1, single CA, would be most acceptable at a reasonable price. Don't break your necks getting the mail off to me, please don't!

A Small Boy's Find

Stamps, truly, turn up in queer places. A small boy recently brought in a quarter of a sheet of the rd., red, Great Britain, imperf., on blue paper, stating that he had found them in an old ledger in his father's office. I never found anything worth having, although I did once turn up a 1 c. 1851, but, as it had a hole in it, it was not much good. As a means of ventilation that hole was superb, but as an addition to its philatelic value I think (no, I did not say "guess") not.

Buffalo Shades

Every once in a while "Papa" Scott gets on the warpath and digs up something that he hid away the day that he and Noah anchored the boat and stepped out. This time he has produced some of the 8 c. Buffalo issue whose chief merit consists in the frame being a distinct red-violet instead of the usual brownish-violet shade. The contrast is sharp and satisfactory enough for any specialist in these stamps.

Philatelists Nobbling the Press

A most excellent association, just formed under the name of the National Stamp Committee, has undertaken to supply to the regular Press of the United States well-written articles, of interest concerning Postage Stamps, and we have all set our hands and seals, etc., to the scheme. The gentleman who will push the practical end is Mr. Stillman, of Washington, D.C., who is an experienced newspaper man and a collector. Mr. Stillman is going to get a number of newsy little things into our daily Press, and this sort of thing helps Philately far more than the ordinary person would suppose. When I disposed of the famous Sydney View block of four unused, to a collector here, I managed to report it in the *New York Sun* and the *Herald*. The description of a rd. stamp, View of Sydney, worth several hundred dollars apiece, brought to us a number of Sydney views for sale from the readers of the article. This sounds well, doesn't it? But I might mention the fact that they were all printed in violet and issued in 1888. Down, little flutterer, down!

Buy! Buy! Buy!

I would like to call the attention of American collectors to the fact that our stock books are now all finished, and in very fine shape to submit to serious buyers. We can show an unused selection of British Colonials mounted in our Imperial Album, a used selection ditto, and any of our seventy-six stock books enable a specialist to examine a wide range of shades and perforations, and are arranged and priced in accordance with our 1905 Catalogue, now in force. Prices are based on stock, not imagination.

E. B. POWER.

THE CENTURY ALBUM.

Including a full Descriptive Catalogue, and illustrated with several thousand full-sized reproductions of the stamps. In one volume, 622 pages. Size of each page, 10x13 inches. Printed on one side of the paper only, catalogue and illustrations on the left, and spaces to correspond on the right-hand pages. All minor varieties of perforation, watermark, and type are omitted, and only such varieties are included as can be distinguished by the young philatelist. Space has been provided for some 18,000 stamps, and provision made for new issues by the insertion of numerous blank pages. Post-free, 13s. 4d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Birmingham Philatelic Society

President: Sir W. B. Avery.

Secretary: G. Johnson, B.A., 308 Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

OCTOBER 19th, 1905.—Paper, "Notes on Odd Varieties," Mr. G. Johnson.

Messrs. F. W. Meredith, L. A. Burd, and H. Davis were unanimously elected members.

Messrs. C. A. Stephenson, B. B. A. Bittencourt, P. T. Deakin, and F. T. Collier were thanked for donations to the Permanent Collection.

Mr. G. Johnson then gave his paper on the following "odd" varieties, several of which were specially included for the sake of beginners:—

British South Africa. Variations in size of the design of the current issue, coinciding with change of shade.

British Somaliland. Two chief settings.

Ceylon. 1886, 5 c., Types A and B.

Gibraltar. 1889 (July), shape of the two varieties of "5" and their position on the sheet.

India. 8 a., Dies 1 and 2, and two types of O.H.M.S.

New Zealand. ½d., watermarked Star or NZ, 1873-5, the 1882-97 (Gibbons No. 183) issue with watermark irregularly placed being occasionally offered to the unwary as the rarer issue.

Queensland. Various Star watermarks.

South Australia. Various Star watermarks.

Victoria. 1850, 3d. various types; 1873, 1d. on yellow and drab, 2d. on green and buff.

Colombia. 1865, large and small 50 c.

Costa Rica. Surcharges of 1881-2, and bogus.

German Levant. 1903, serif to top of "A".

Bavaria. 6 kr., brown, 1849 and 1850.

France. Postage Due, lithographed and typographed; also 1849 issue compared with same type Colonials.

Greece. Paris prints compared with early Athens.

Hayti. 1881 and 1886 shaded face compared.

Iceland. Large and small "3."

Liberia. Extra lines of 1864, 1867, 1880.

November 2nd, 1905.—Paper, "Turkey, 1869-76," Mr. P. T. Deakin.

Mr. P. J. W. Deverell, Dr. H. Brice, and Dr. C. Marsen were unanimously elected members.

Messrs. C. McNaughtan, H. L. Hayman, J. N. Marsden, Dr. H. le Cronier, G. Zarmikiau, T. B. Widdowson, and J. Bramah were thanked for donations to the Permanent Collection; and Mr. D. Rottery for Kohl's Catalogue.

Mr. P. T. Deakin then gave a continuation of his paper on Turkey, comprising the issues of 1869-76. By means of enlargements of the various inscriptions and the minor varieties of them, many of which are not catalogued, he cleared up the difficulties of these somewhat puzzling issues, and fully earned the cordial vote of thanks which was accorded him.

The auction at the Acorn Hotel will take place on 7 December.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: F. Reichenheim, Esq.

Secretary: H. A. Slade, Esq., "Nine-Fields," St. Albans.

Meetings: 4, Southampton Row, W.C., Third Tuesdays.

Subscription: 5s. annually.

In addition to the monthly meetings held at headquarters, 4 Southampton Row, London, W.C., an ordinary exchange packet is made up and circulated on the 20th of each month under the auspices of the Society. The packet contains about forty sheets, with an average value of £700 gross, and all members are eligible to see or contribute on application without extra charge.

An advanced packet is made up on the 1st of each month, to which members are admitted after their names have been passed by the Committee. The principles on which this packet is worked are: (1) net prices; (2) no stamp to be marked at less than 1s.; (3) not more than fifteen members to see each packet; (4) not more than fifteen sheets to be included in each packet; (5) packets to be returned from circulation within thirty-one days; (6) balances to be adjusted in three days.

For full information, and for copy of the last annual report of the Society, application should be made to the Hon. Sec., H. A. Slade, Nine Fields, St. Albans.

Leeds Philatelic Society

President: E. Egly, Arncliffe Road, West Park, Leeds.

Secretary: Charles W. Harding, 139 Belle Vue Road, Leeds.

Meetings: Leeds Institute, Cookridge Street, Leeds.

Annual Subscription: 5s.; Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

THERE was a large attendance of members at the last meeting of this Society, held at the Leeds Institute on 7 November, 1905, the occasion being a display of British North American stamps, always popular with the philatelist, embracing as they do the obsolete issues of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia and Vancouver Island, as well as the stamps of Canada and Newfoundland, which still continue to be stamp-issuing countries.

Some excellent collections were shown by the members, and the President (Mr. Egly) gave a few interesting notes on British Columbia and Vancouver Island, and also touched upon Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, his remarks being illustrated chiefly by his own collection. The Canadian section was then taken up Mr. J. H. Thackrah, whose fine collection, supported by those of Messrs. Wade, Duffield, and others, more than amply served to illustrate his observations on the various issues, which included those on laid, thick, thin, pelure, and wove papers, with their variety of shades, down to date.

The stamps of British North America are generally of such beautifully artistic design and execution as to command the admiration of not only the collector, but of even the layman. The first issues of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in 1851, followed by Newfoundland in 1857, depict in a pleasing and highly artistic manner the rose, the shamrock, and the thistle, surrounding a crown enclosed in an octagon on white ground in the centre; and the same emblems with a crown over an ornamental V, the whole being enclosed in an oval, are to be seen on the second issue of British Columbia in 1865. The first issue of 1861, and also that of Vancouver Island in 1865, show in profile the head of Queen Victoria.

All the countries named, with the exception of Newfoundland, ceased to issue stamps for postal use when they were merged in the Dominion of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1867, and Vancouver Island and British Columbia (both of which formed distinct governments) in 1871. Prince Edward Island was later, in 1873, admitted as a province of the Dominion.

The earlier postal issues of Canada and Newfoundland include some of the *rare aves* of Philately, and the 1s. Nova Scotia and 1s. New Brunswick are extremely rare in an unused state, but the greatest rarity of all is the 12d., black, Canada of 1851.

Several novelties were shown by the members. Mr. Morten's 1d., black, and 1d., red, imperforate, of Great Britain, showing trials for ink and obliteration made in August, 1840, the corners being waxed out on plate for the purpose, deserving mention; and Mr. Law was thanked for his contribution of two British Bechuana-

land stamps with forged overprints (one inverted) to the Society's Forgery Book.

Mr. M. Knight, of Leeds, was elected a member of the Society, and one new member was proposed for election at the next meeting.

Liverpool Philatelic Society

President: Herbert Woods.

Secretary: W. Halfpenny, 28 Dacey Street, Liverpool.

Meetings: Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. 7 p.m.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the above Society took place on Monday evening, 6 November, 1905, at the Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. About forty members and friends were present in honour of Mr. W. Dorning Beckton, President of the Manchester Philatelic Society, who very kindly came over to exhibit his superb collection of the stamps of Roumania, and to deliver a short address on the same. Mr. Beckton's collection of these stamps is probably one of the finest in Europe, as it is practically complete with all the minor varieties, errors, double prints, and other differences, in many cases whole panes being shown. It was a wonderful show, especially of the earliest issues, many being of great rarity. The paper also proved of extreme interest, as the lecturer dealt very fully with the various exhibits, and spared no pains in pointing out the particular details connected with each issue. A very cordial vote of thanks was offered to Mr. Beckton for his great kindness, and hopes were expressed that it would not be long before he again conferred a similar pleasure on the Society. The whole evening will be remembered for a long time as one of the most successful ever held under the Society's auspices.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4 Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

ONE hundred and twenty members and four visitors were present at the meeting of the Junior Philatelic Society in Exeter Hall on Saturday, 18 November. From six o'clock a brisk bourse was in progress, and this was closed at eight for the formal meeting. The President, after the minutes had been duly read and confirmed, made various announcements. The forthcoming work on the stamps of the United States was rapidly approaching completion; but as they did not wish to unduly hurry the production for fear of poor workmanship, there was still a trifling delay. The beautiful collotype plates, twelve in number, which were on view, testified to the excellence of the production: the Society has now in hand at the low price of one shilling if ordered before published, and one shilling and sixpence after production.

Donations to the Library included *Our Catalogue* (U.S.A.), presented by Mr. L. Savournin, and sixty-eight miscellaneous magazines by Mr. Wm. Gilbert; to the Forgery Collection, various forgeries presented by Mr. Rowe. A report from the Hon. Curator of the Permanent Collection is appended at the end of this report.

The congratulations and good wishes of the Society having been conveyed to Mr. W. B. Avery on receiving his baronetcy, the following reply was received and read:—

"DEAR SIRs,—Please accept my best thanks for your kind letter conveying to me the congratulations and good wishes of the Officers, Committee, and 550 members of the Junior Philatelic Society.

"Please thank them one and all from me for their kind message.—I am, dear sirs, yours very truly,

"WILLIAM B. AVERY."

The following new members were elected: A. Jaray, P. A. Hillebrand, Edwin P. Seebohm, W. Leslie, E. J. Page, Thos. H. Walters, W. A. Ashwood, Edward N. Bouvier, and H. L. Beiles.

Mr. A. H. L. Giles, R.N., was then called upon by the President to read a paper on and give a display of the stamps of Colombia. The paper was elaborate and exhaustive, and the illustrations to it afforded by the choice display added greatly to a most enjoyable evening. Mr. Melville proposed and Mr. Feeney seconded a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Giles, which was carried with acclamation. In replying, Mr. Giles said that he little thought when he was in Colombia fourteen years ago, that he should be called upon to read a paper on the stamps of the country, or he might have been able to find something fresh about them. As it was he had to draw his information largely from the contributions of well-known philatelists to the various philatelic magazines.

A very pleasing display of the stamps of Gambia and Gold Coast followed. These had been kindly sent by Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., of Rochdale, who was accorded the thanks of the meeting with the enthusiasm with which the members invariably greet his fine displays.

Literature for sale by auction on 6 January, 1906, should be received as early before Christmas as possible. The address of the Auctioneer, Mr. E. A. Gilbert Lodge, is 23 Spencer Road, Grove Park, W.

The next diplomas are to be awarded for Philatelic Literature, and notices concerning this contest will be issued shortly.

It was announced that the cast for the philatelic play entitled *The Lady Forger* is now completed, and rehearsals are in full swing. The performance will take place in the Bijou Theatre, Archer Street, W., on Saturday, 17 February, 1906.

Permanent Collection of Stamps—Curator's Report

I HAVE to record donations from Mr. H. M. Andrews, Mr. G. Gearing Hiatt, Mr. E. A. Leigh, and Mr. S. Fenton, and a further donation from Miss Cassells.

Steady progress has been made with the mounting of the stamps which have been donated to the Permanent Collection.

Since the last meeting, Belgium and Holland have been completed. I find there are many vacant spaces which I am sure our members will have no difficulty in filling. In the series of Belgium stamps with the tag at foot as to delivery on Sunday, we lack such common stamps as the 10 centimes, brown and rose, 25 centimes, and 50 centimes, in anything approaching fine condition.

A start has been made with the British Colonies; but, generally speaking, we are so badly off for these that the display so far cannot be regarded as creditable.

The portion of the collection already mounted may be seen to-night by any member so desiring.

R. HALLIDAY, Curator.

KENT VILLA, DIAMOND ROAD, SLOUGH,
18 November, 1905.

Scottish Philatelic Society

President: John Walker.

Secretary: R. W. Findlater, 30 Buckingham Terrace, Edinburgh.

Meetings: Edinburgh. Monthly: 8 p.m.

Annual Subscription: Ord. 5s.; Cor. 2s. 6d.

THE November meeting of the above Society was held on Monday, 13 November, 1905, at 26 Frederick Street, Edinburgh, with a large attendance of members. Major H. C. French and Mr. Hugh B. McGill were unanimously elected members. The Secretary's report of the Exchange Branch showed that the Septem-

ber and October packets were still in circulation, the sales in both packets having exceeded the total sales of the corresponding months in last year, with still a third of the members on the postal list yet to see the packets. The November packet was sent out on the first of the month, and had good sales to date.

Mr. John MacGregor, w.s., gave an interesting paper and display of his fine specialized collection of

the stamps of Grenada, his collection being specially strong in the surcharged stamps of this interesting country.

The December meeting will be held at the same address, when Mr. R. Kerr will give a paper and display of the stamps of Great Britain.

Prospectuses will be sent to intending members on application.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

No Cataloguing Chalky Paper

HIP! hip! hip! hooray! There is to be no cataloguing of chalk-surfaced papers. Here is the fiat which is to go forth in the Supplement to Gibbons Catalogue, and which will be in the hands of my readers in a day or so:—

"It appears that the patent fugitive colours of Messrs. De la Rue and Co. are not found to be quite a sufficient safeguard in the case of stamps used for both postal and fiscal purposes, or that so many different values are now used for both purposes that it is impossible to find a sufficient number of different fugitive colours to distinguish them. Consequently the ordinary paper, both for the stamps of Great Britain and for those of the Colonies, is to be superseded by a *chalk-surfaced* paper, from which it will be impossible to remove any form of obliteration without at the same time removing the impression of the stamp. The watermarks remain unchanged for the present.

"Several values of the current issue of Great Britain, as well as of many of the Colonies, have already appeared upon the new paper. The amount of chalk-surfacing is so very variable that in *used* copies it is sometimes impossible to detect it.

"For the present we have decided *not to list* the varieties on the new paper, separately, in the Catalogue (see *Monthly Journal*, Sept., 1905)."

There can scarcely be a sane collector who will not welcome this decision, and congratulate the great Strand firm on its courage.

Sale of the Buckley Collection

MESSRS. GLENDINING AND CO., LIMITED, 7 Argyll Street, Regent Street, W., announce that they have had placed in their hands for sale by auction two exceptionally fine lots of stamps. The first consists of the collection of the late Mr. Henry Buckley, of Birmingham. This collection consists only of British Colonials and of stamps of Norway. The whole lot to be sold without reserve. The stamps in this collection are in exceptionally fine condition; a large quantity of the Colonial stamps are in corner blocks, with the plate number attached, and some rare plates will be found in the mixed lots.

A Transvaal Gold Medal Collection

A VERY large, important collection, that has been placed in the hands of Messrs. Glendinning and Co., Limited, is the highly specialized collection of Transvaal of Mr. Alberto Philipp, of Hamburg. This collection gained a special Gold Medal at the Berlin Exhibition, and has been considerably added to since then, and is said to be one of the finest collections of Transvaals in the world. It contains magnificent picked specimens; amongst them are some unique things, such as unused blocks of four with one stamp printed *tête-bêche*, etc. etc. It is too early for a detailed list of these stamps, and the sale cannot take place before January next, as the catalogue has to be prepared and circulated throughout America and the Continent, where there are many buyers of these stamps.

Sale of the Bevan Collection

MESSRS. GLENDINING AND CO., on 14 and 15 November, disposed of the collection of the Rev. S. Bevan, of Brighton. The collection contained somewhere about 22,000 stamps, but was very disappointing in its poor condition and in the number of forgeries that were found in it. It appears that many of the stamps had been bought locally, and as far as Stanley Gibbons, Limited, could trace them, a large number of the forgeries were placed with local dealers by Monsieur Pinet, from Paris. While in Brighton, some little time since, a member of the firm took an opportunity of looking into this matter and was surprised to find a quantity of dangerous forgeries in the Brighton shops. Nevertheless, the firm consider the Brighton dealers were quite unaware of the class of goods they were selling. They are honest and well-known men of good reputation, and the imitations were so good that they would undoubtedly deceive people who were not experts. Amongst the forgeries in this collection were the following:—

Forged surcharges on the 2, 3, and 5 rupee Indian, for Jhind, Patiala, etc., also all the stamps lettered JEEND. In the rarer surcharges of Ceylon, such as 5 on 24, green, 10 on 24, green, 10 on 36, etc., there were some dangerous imitations. In the Straits Settlements there were also dangerous forgeries. In Bechuanaland the 1d., 2d., and 1s., surcharged on Cape stamps, with the error *RITISH*, all forged. These have also been offered in other quarters. It is not necessary to mention other things noted, but it may be well to emphasize what has been said on many previous occasions, and that is that collectors, in their own interest, should buy from responsible dealers who have a thorough knowledge of their business. They may have to pay a little more for the stamps, but it is better in the long run to pay for expert knowledge, not only in postage stamps, but in every other kind of bric-à-brac.

Amongst the better prices realized at the sale the following may be noted:—

| | £ | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| Great Britain, Board of Education, 1d. and ½d., second type, mint | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Collection of Indian States | 12 | 15 | 0 |
| B.C.A., £2, mint | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| " £10, black and yellow, used | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| " £25, Prussian blue, imperf. and used, but undoubtedly a fiscal stamp | 6 | 15 | 0 |
| Mauritius, small fillet, strip of four, 2d., blue | 9 | 5 | 0 |
| " 2c. and 38c., surcharge inverted | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Zululand, £5, used | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| Newfoundland, imperf., strip of three, mint | 4 | 15 | 0 |
| South Australia, 6d., Prussian blue, perf., roulette, unused | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Victoria, 6d., original, beaded oval | 3 | 7 | 6 |

Most of the lots in this sale were large mixed lots, which fetched good prices, but which would convey no information if prices were quoted.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I, all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

DECEMBER, 1905

2. Junior Philatelic Society: Auction Sale; Paper and Display—Sarawak; B. W. H. Poole. Display—Kings Head and Recent Colonials; J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.
4. Liverpool Philatelic Society: Paper—"Saxony," by C. N. B. Crowther. Display of Saxony and Ceylon.
7. Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society: Barbados. Birmingham Philatelic Society: Paper—"Notes on Odd Varieties," by G. Johnson.
- 7 & 8. Auction: Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
8. Philatelic Society of London: Messrs. M. P. Castle and L. L. R. Hausburg, A Paper on the "Retouches of New Zealand," with Display and Lantern Enlargements. Manchester Philatelic Society: Paper—"Russia," by G. B. Duerst.
8. Dundee and District Philatelic Society: Questions and Answers.
11. Scottish Philatelic Society (Edinburgh): Great Britain, R. Kerr.
- 12 & 13. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
13. International Philatelic Union: Display—India and Ceylon, with Notes by J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.
- 14 & 15. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
15. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Montserrat and St. Christopher, opened by J. H. Abbott.
16. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; Paper—"Hayti for Beginners"; Fred. J. Melville. Humorous Paper—"On Nothing in Particular—Especially Stamps"; W. E. Imeson. Display—African Colonies III: Transvaal from 1878; Natal from 1859; and Orange River Colony.
18. Herts Philatelic Society: Display with Notes—Liberia, H. L. Hayman, Liverpool. Discussion—Collecting as an Investment, opened by W. C. Taylor. Display—United States.
19. Leeds Philatelic Society: Paper by Mr. E. Egly—"The Universal Postal Union: Its History and Progress."
20. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Display—Rare Stamps; F. W. Lake. Ten-minute Papers—Selected. General Sale and Exchange.
29. Dundee and District Philatelic Society: Display—Africa, Part II, with Notes; J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1500 different Stamps form a splendid start for any one. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection; but it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 24
Whole No. 49

9 DECEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Bavaria



BAVARIA, or Bayern, is a kingdom in the southern part of Germany. In size and population it stands second amongst the States of the German Em-

pire. It is made up of two disconnected parts, separated by the Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt dominions. The eastern or main portion adjoins Prussia on the

north-west, and the western portion is the Palatinate, west of the Rhine, bordering on Alsace-Lorraine.

The government is a constitutional hereditary monarchy, with a king, an upper house, and a chamber of deputies. The population is mostly Roman Catholic.

In 1806 Bavaria became a kingdom and joined the Confederation of the Rhine. It sided with Austria in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, and was obliged to pay the penalty of its choice in the shape of an indemnity and the cession of territory to Prussia. It entered the German Empire in 1870.

It has an area of 29,375 square miles, and a population in 1900 of 6,175,153. Its chief towns are Munich, the capital, with a population of 499,932; Nuremberg, 261,022; Augsburg, 89,109; and Würzburg, 75,497.

Its Philatelic History

Although Bavaria became a member of the German Empire in 1870, she retained certain independent privileges, amongst them being the sole control of her postal system. Hence Bavaria still issues her own separate stamps. She was the first of the German States to make use of adhesive postage stamps, and her postal issues are to-day amongst the most interesting and the cheapest of all the stamps of Europe. From 1849 till 1867 the design was that of a large central numeral of value; then in 1867 the figure type was superseded by an arms type, which has been continued with but very slight modification down to the present time. The 1 kreuzer, black, of the first issue is catalogued at 15s., but with this exception used copies of nearly all the following stamps may be had for a few pence each.

1849-58. Six values. Design large central numeral of value. The 1 kr. was issued first as illustrated with the numeral in a square frame, but was subsequently altered to that of the other values with large numeral within a circular disk of solid colour. Imperforate.



Imperforate.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 kr., black | 15 0 | 15 0 | |
| 1 kr., rose | 1 6 | 0 4 | |
| 3 kr., blue | 2 0 | 0 1 | |
| 6 kr., brown | 1 0 | 0 1 | |
| 9 kr., green | 2 6 | 0 2 | |
| 12 kr., red | 5 0 | 5 0 | |
| 18 kr., yellow | 5 0 | 5 0 | |

1862. Six values. Design unaltered, but the colours changed.

Imperforate.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 kr., yellow | 1 0 | 0 2 | |
| 3 kr., rose | 2 0 | 0 1 | |
| 6 kr., blue | 2 0 | 0 2 | |
| 9 kr., brown | 4 0 | 0 4 | |
| 12 kr., green | 5 0 | 1 6 | |
| 18 kr., red | 10 0 | 2 6 | |

1867-8. Seven values, the 7 kr. subsequently taking the place of the 9 kr., which was withdrawn in its favour. The 6 kr., first printed in blue, was changed to brown. The old figure type of design was superseded by an arms type which was embossed in relief. Imperforate.



Imperforate.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 kr., green | 2 0 | 0 2 | |
| 3 kr., rose | 3 0 | 0 1 | |
| 6 kr., blue | 15 0 | 0 6 | |
| 6 kr., brown | 10 0 | 1 3 | |
| 7 kr., blue | 15 0 | 0 6 | |
| 9 kr., brown | 12 0 | 2 0 | |
| 12 kr., lilac | 20 0 | 5 0 | |
| 18 kr., red | 12 0 | 4 6 | |

1870-3. Eight values. Same design, but printed on paper watermarked with diagonal lines and perforated.

Perforated.

| | | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 kr., green | 0 4 | 0 1 | |
| 3 kr., rose | 1 6 | 0 1 | |
| 6 kr., brown | 1 0 | 0 6 | |
| 7 kr., blue | 0 4 | 0 1 | |
| 9 kr., brown | 0 2 | 0 1 | |
| 10 kr., ochre | 0 2 | 0 1 | |
| 12 kr., lilac | 25 0 | 25 0 | |
| 18 kr., red | 1 0 | 0 4 | |

1874-5. One value of 1 mark provided for the prepayment of the rate on parcels and large packets within the Union of the German States. Design an enlargement of the Arms type of the previous issue. This value was first

issued imperforate, but within a few months the supplies were perforated. Imperforate copies are very scarce unused.

*Imperforate.*

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 mark, mauve . . . | 60 0 | 3 6 |

Perforated.

| | | |
|---------------------|------|-----|
| 1 mark, mauve . . . | 20 0 | 0 3 |
|---------------------|------|-----|

1876-81. Eight values. Design unchanged. Up to the end of 1875 the values on all the stamps were expressed in the currency of South Germany, i.e. in kreuzers. Then these were withdrawn and a new series of the same design issued in the Imperial currency, i.e. pfennige and marks. The watermark was changed from diagonal lines, or lozenges as they were termed, to a watermark of wavy lines. The 5 pf., first issued in green, was subsequently changed to mauve to prevent its being mistaken for the 3 pf.,

and the 50 pf. also underwent a change from vermilion to brown. The 1 mark was printed in the same colour as before, but may be distinguished by the watermark.

Perforated.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 3 pf., green . . . | 0 9 | 0 1 |
| 5 pf., green . . . | 1 6 | 0 2 |
| 5 pf., mauve . . . | 1 6 | 0 1 |
| 10 pf., carmine . . . | 0 8 | 0 1 |
| 20 pf., blue . . . | 1 0 | 0 1 |
| 25 pf., brown . . . | 6 0 | 0 1 |
| 50 pf., vermilion . . . | 10 0 | 0 1 |
| 50 pf., brown . . . | 10 0 | 0 1 |
| 1 mk., mauve . . . | 1 4 | 0 1 |
| 2 mks., orange . . . | 2 6 | 0 2 |

1888-1901. Ten values. Same design as before. This issue includes several new values. The 3 pf. has been changed from green to brown, and the 5 pf. from mauve to its old colour of green. Watermark of wavy lines. Perforated.

Perforated.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|----------------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2 pf., grey . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 3 pf., brown . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 pf., green . . . | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 25 pf., orange . . . | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 30 pf., olive-green . . . | 0 5 | 0 1 |
| 40 pf., yellow-ochre . . . | 0 7 | 0 1 |
| 50 pf., marone . . . | 0 8 | 0 1 |
| 80 pf., lilac . . . | 1 2 | 0 2 |
| 3 mks., olive-brown . . . | 4 0 | 4 0 |
| 5 mks., pale green . . . | 6 6 | 6 0 |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

THE IMPROVED POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, No. 0.

One Hundred and Tenth Thousand. The best and largest Shilling Album ever published. 176 large pages. Spaces for 4700 Stamps. 48 extra pages added in this edition without extra charge. This Album is now selling at the rate of over 1000 copies a month. The demand for this Album has simply been phenomenal, and it gives universal satisfaction—not a single complaint has been received. The last edition had nearly 20 extra pages added, and now another 48 pages have been added, and all the Geographical and Historical Notes brought up fully to date. All the newest stamp-issuing countries, such as Bussahir, Canton, Cayman Isles, Hoi-hao, Dahomey, etc. etc., have been added. At the top of each page there is the name of the country, and a mass of valuable information, including date when Stamps were issued, population, area, reigning sovereign, capital, etc. Spaces of proper sizes are provided for all Stamps, and the book is bound in a superior manner in art cloth. The Album contains a pocket to hold duplicate Stamps, and fifty Stamps will be presented gratis with each Album. There is also an illustrated Frontispiece of the Rarest Stamps, with prices attached that we pay for each. Price, bound in handsome art cloth, post-free, 1s. 3d. E. S. says: "I asked a friend where the best place was to buy a Stamp Album cheap. He referred me to you, saying that he had bought one and sold it next day for 1s. 6d., after keeping the stamps." A. A. writes: "I received your Stamp Album on Thursday, and I wonder how you can sell it so cheap; for as soon as a friend saw it he offered me 2s. for it. Please send me another."

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

STAMPS TO LOOK FOR

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

THE beginner is usually on the look out for all stamps which have not already found a place in his collection. Such a search brings to light thousands and tens of thousands of varieties; and such a plethora of good things naturally brings to mind the oft-repeated question: "Which of these stamps ought I to aim at possessing?" The majority of the world's stamps are fairly easy to obtain, if the collector has an unlimited supply of patience and money. But most countries have given to the world some stamps which, for one reason or another, have become very rare. These are eagerly sought after, and it adds very much to the interest of the search to know that examples may turn up in the most unlikely places, even when one is not looking for them. Let me give one out of many instances that occur to my mind. Some years ago a friend of mine, who owns a fine collection of the early issues of European countries, lost his way in the streets of Rome. He went into a small shop to ask the way to his hotel. He knew no Italian, but the woman who kept the shop quickly recognized what the difficulty was, and thereupon drew a sketch of the roads leading to the hotel. This struck my friend as being a very gracious act. He therefore looked about the shop for some means of expressing his gratitude. His eye caught a glimpse of six sheets of stamps on the counter. Here, thought he, was a means of showing his thanks. The price was two lire per sheet. He bought four sheets, which cost about 3s. 6d. in English money. At the time he knew nothing of the value of these stamps. On his return to London he found that any one stamp was worth as much as he had paid for the whole sheet. Ever since he has regretted that he did not buy all the sheets.

Again, what treasures still lie hidden in the piles of correspondence stored away by business houses, banks, and even private houses! They lie undisturbed, probably forgotten. But some day they will be unearthed, and great will be the

joy of the finder, if he be a collector with some knowledge of the value of old stamps.

Another source whence rarities are derived is the old album of our fathers' days. How many such collections there are, got together thirty years ago, and how many possessors of such albums know nothing of the value of the stamps they contain! The 2d. blue POST OFFICE Mauritius, lately purchased by the Prince of Wales for £1450, lay neglected in an album for many years. The owner did not know that it was one of the rarest of the world's stamps until it was pointed out to him by a friend. Some knowledge, then, of the rare stamps may prove useful as well as of surpassing interest. If it does not help much to swell our own collections with "pearls of great price," it may help us to detect them in the albums of others.

These, then, are some of the reasons which have led me to write on "Stamps to look for." Some of those which I purpose to mention will still remain in the category of "sour grapes," i.e. rarities to read about, but not to possess. Others, less rare, but nevertheless uncommon, may find their way into the reader's possession if he makes diligent search and commits to memory the particular features which distinguish them from common varieties.

Before embarking on my theme, let me emphasize one point. My list has no pretension to completeness. It must be regarded as fragmentary, for such is it intended to be. A stamp here and a stamp there, the story briefly told, the value, if known, set down. Anything more than that would mean the writing up of all the valuable stamps the world possesses, a task beyond both my knowledge and capabilities. Let us make a beginning with Great Britain.

The V.R. Stamp

When the black 1d. stamp appeared in 1840, there was a desire on the part of the Government to provide a special stamp

for official use. For this, the Maltese crosses in the upper angles were removed and the letters V.R. substituted. Pairs of specimens were sent out to a few country post offices and some sheets were used for experiments in cancelling marks. At the last moment, however, the order for their issue was withdrawn. Some are said to have been used postally, but most of the stock was destroyed. Collectors have always held these V.R. stamps in high esteem, and a specimen is sure to command a good price at auction. The balance of evidence, however, is against its inclusion amongst *bona fide* postage stamps, and without going so far as to call it a label, we may safely include it under the heading of "Stamps prepared for use, but never issued."

The 2d., blue, without white lines under POSTAGE and over TWO PENCE, unused, is catalogued at £8.

All red 1d. stamps issued before 1854 are worth inspection. Archer was allowed to experiment on sheets of stamps with his machines for rouletting and perforation. These sheets were afterwards used by the Post Office. Occasionally, therefore, one comes across a stamp perforated 16 or rouletted 12, dated prior to 1854. Such a rouletted specimen sold for £1 5s. at Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper's sale in September last.

Most of the 1d., red, which have Maltese crosses in the upper corners are valuable in an unused condition. The embossed series of 1847-54 are treasures, if in mint condition; nor need one despise them used, provided they are good specimens with uncut margins.

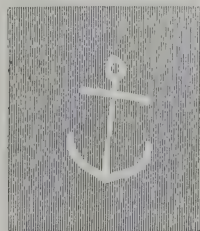
The 4d., carmine, of 1856, unused, is



numbered among the world's 100 rarest stamps. It was issued on blue safety paper, watermarked Medium Garter, in February, 1856. The issue lasted some nine months, and gave place to one on white paper with the same watermark. The pale carmine variety is catalogued at £35, unused. Indeed, most of the Great

Britain, unused, down to the year 1880, and, in particular, the two shilling, brown, of 1880, are valuable.

The £1, brown-lilac, of 1882, blued paper, wmk. Anchor, holds the palm amongst rare English stamps. In mint condition, it has changed hands at £98, a veritable object-lesson on the way in which stamps may increase in value a hundredfold.



Most beginners are unaware of the fact that there are two different designs of the 1d., lilac, of 1881. The first had fourteen white dots in each corner. The second, which appeared in December, 1881, was more carefully designed. The engraving was better, the lettering was larger, and there were sixteen evenly formed dots in place of the fourteen curiously shaped dots of the earlier issue.

A comparison of the two illustrations below will at once make the distinction clear.



The former of these two stamps, unused, is becoming rarer year by year.

The 4d., 9d., and 1s. of the 1884 issue are good unused.

The Jubilee series of 1887 has one stamp which, owing to a mistake in printing, soon outstripped the others in value. The normal 3d. was pale or deep brown on yellow. Some sheets appeared in deep brown on orange. The latter soon became rare. Unused specimens are catalogued at £3, while a used stamp may be bought for 10s.

All the early issues of Bahamas, Bermuda, the Leeward Islands comprising Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, and Virgin Islands, are rare. The same may be said of the first issue of Jamaica. The Windward Islands,

St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Tobago, and Trinidad, have issued scores of stamps whose market value now runs into several pounds each. To mention them singly would mean the transcribing of a great part of Gibbons Catalogue which deals with the issues of these islands. Likewise also is it the case with the stamps of Bechuanaland, and the Central, East, and South British African spheres of influence. Of course, there are stamps here and there which are fairly common, but, for the most part, these are out of reach of the average collector of moderate means.

The first issue of British Guiana in 1850 look very much like postmarks. They were printed in black on papers differing in colour according to value. The TWO CENTS is one of the world's rarities. Some twenty-five years ago one of these was sold for £20. A pair were sold in 1897 for £650, and subsequently found their way into the collection of a Russian philatelist for the consideration of £1000.

The next issue, of 1852, consisted of two stamps of the face value of one and four cents. A sailing vessel forms the central design, below which appears the Latin

motto of the colony, DAMUS PATIMUS QUE VICISSIM. "Patimus" is a misprint for "petimus." The correct motto appears on succeeding issues, and means "We give and we seek in turn." The mistake has caused the stamps to be known amongst collectors as "Patimus Guianas." Used, they are catalogued at £7 and £9 respectively.



1850.



1852.

The one cent, black on magenta, of the 1856 issue enjoys the distinction of being the rarest stamp known.

A list of some of the prices paid for some of the 1850 series may interest the reader. Here it is:—

| | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|------------|-------|
| 2 cents, rose | . | . | pair, used | £1000 |
| 4 " yellow | . | . | " | 40 |
| 8 " green | . | . | " | 31 |
| 12 " indigo | . | . | " | 35 |

(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

OUTWITTING A SUBSTITUTE

By FELIX

RESUMING my last letter, wherein I stated how I had, fortunately, become possessed of a three-cornered wood-block Cape of Good Hope stamp, I have a piece of advice to offer to all amateur stamp collectors, namely, that in offering stamps of any considerable value for exchange or sale, it is advisable to attach an almost imperceptible private identification mark to the same. I learnt this from dealers. As a rule, they do not trouble themselves about marking stamps of small value, but when the catalogue value exceeds ten shillings they generally do so.

I always wrote my initials with a crow-quill, in red ink, *under* the stamp at a

certain corner, and I am now going to relate how, on a certain occasion, this useful precaution saved me £8.

Amongst my duplicate stamps I possessed a valuable British Guiana stamp, which I sent to a dealer for valuation. The said dealer was a stranger to me, but had been recommended as an expert by a fellow-philatelist. In addition to the stamp in question I sent several others, some of which I also marked. What I am now relating occurred some years ago, and I will, as far as possible, bathe the actors and their residences in octopus fluid.

For the purposes of this true story I will call the dealer Jones, and his

residence Sheffield; my friend's name Brown, and his residence Liverpool; and my residence London. Jones was not aware that I was a friend of Brown, or that he had recommended Jones to me.

In July, 189-, I posted the stamps to Sheffield, and in a few days received them back. The British Guiana stamp was valued at £8; but it was obvious to me that it was not the stamp I had forwarded, and was a forgery. All the other valuable stamps retained my private mark, which was not on the British Guiana stamp.

The question now arose what action I should take. If I wrote to Jones and stated that he had substituted a stamp for mine, he would probably reply indignantly and threaten me with the law. A stamp of such value is as good as paper money all over the world, and could be wafted away very rapidly. The position was a difficult one, but after careful thought I resolved to meet fraud with cunning, and get my stamp back. I wrote to Brown, describing the whole affair, and also described my private mark and its position on the under surface of the stamp. I requested him to send to Jones for various valuable stamps on approval (which he was accustomed to do) and include British Guiana stamps of the issue of the one stolen amongst them.

I awaited the result of the plot with anxiety, wondering whether Jones might smell danger and hold back the stamp. But Brown was no fool, and, having recommended Jones to me, determined to help me. To my great relief, I received a wire from Brown: "Your stamp sent me on approval. What shall I do?" My

reply was: "Sending forgery to take the place of my stamp." I had now nearly enough evidence to convict; but Jones might even now write that the forgery was sent in error. However, I determined to take no further action as long as Jones, when he received the forgery in return for my property, made no remonstrance. And Jones made no remonstrance.

Brown and I never dealt with him again. After that episode I always, and only, dealt with the best London dealers, who are above such perfidious action.

The above terminates my experiences as a possible victim. Before concluding these lines, I must mention a very curious stamp belonging to a friend of mine, namely, a black three-cornered Cape. The stamp is a genuine one, and the only one of the colour I have ever seen. It could scarcely be an error in colour, and some attribute its appearance to long submersion in the sea. I believe a large consignment of Capes were, on one occasion, recovered from a wreck off the African coast, but whether they were used for issue or not I cannot say.

The stamp is now, I believe, in the Isle of Wight, and no money would tempt its owner to part with it.

I have been promised some interesting experiences by a collector who possesses a collection approaching the Tapling* in value, which may be of interest to all philatelists; my own experiences furnish nothing more of interest.

* I refer to the great collection in the British Museum.

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GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Chalky Paper

THERE is much excitement in the philatelic camp over the question of chalky paper. It remains to be seen how Gibbons' decision not to catalogue it will be received. A few extreme specialists, who would catalogue every flaw in a printing as a variety, will no doubt clamour for its inclusion; but I suspect that the general disgust which has been engendered by specialism run mad will make itself felt. The quips and cranks of certain specialists in listing up every broken letter in the surcharges of British Somaliland and Zanzibar have been a bit too much even for specialists, and now if a stamp collector wants to express any deeply rooted objection, and the ordinary dictionaries fail him, he says, "May I be Zanzibarred if I do."

The Coming Album for Beginners

At last the promised Gibbons Album for Beginners is all but ready. We have agitated for it for a long time in season and out of season, and now we are actually in sight of the real article.

The "Century Album" was a big step in the right direction, but it included a lot of rubbish in the shape of Officials, Unpaid, Postal Fiscals, etc., which most general collectors now throw overboard.

The new album, which is to be called "The Ideal Album," will exclude all this worthless stuff. In fact, it will be based on the lines on which the "Countries of the World" are being written up by the editor for *G.S.W.*, omitting varieties of perforation and even excluding the multiple CA watermark, so drastic is the compilation in the direction of simplicity.

The size is to be about $9\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{3}{4}$, and the arrangement will be strictly alphabetical.

There will be a one-volume edition to include all the countries of the world—a tall order nowadays—which will be arranged to have stamps on both sides of the paper, and a two-volume edition for stamps on one side of the paper only.

The one-volume edition will be sold at 10s., and will make a very handsome present; but, if I were a boy, I should screw the few extra shillings out of somebody for the two-volume edition, for stamps on opposite pages do not agree.

Colour-names

WE have been chuckling over the long list of confusing colour-names which some industrious body compiled out of our Gibbons. But our list is not in it according to a writer in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, who tells us that

In a very curious work of the celebrated Goethe, entitled *Winkelmann und sein Jahrhundert*, it is stated that about 15,000 varieties of colour are employed by the workers of mosaic in Rome, and that there are fifty shades of each of these varieties, from the deepest to the palest, thus affording 750,000 tints, which the artist can distinguish with the greatest facility. It might be imagined that with the command of 750,000 tints of colours, the most varied and beautiful painting could be perfectly imitated; yet this is not the case, for the mosaic workers find a lack of tints even among this astonishing variety.

Which goes to prove that we never know when we are well off. If the compiler of colour-names for Gibbons had got hold of those 750,000 tints we might all have been in a philatelic lunatic asylum by this time.

Bermuda Dock Design

I AM glad to hear of a couple more values in what is known as the Bermuda Dock design, for they encourage the hope that we shall have a full series of Docks. It breaks the monotony of stereotyped King's Heads, and such King's Heads too!

Such King's Heads!

PEOPLE keep on wondering why King Edward VII tolerates such a prison-cropped representation of himself. If he were not so good-natured it would surely have had to give way to a more acceptable presentation ere this. The Canadian Head remains the best and only good stamp portrait of His Majesty, but that is the work of a rival firm of stamp engravers.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Brazil.—Our publishers send us the 10 reis on the watermarked paper.



Wmk. "Estados Unidos Brazil". Perf.

- 10 reis, scarlet and blue.
- 20 " orange "
- 50 " green.
- 100 " carmine.
- 200 " blue.

British Guiana.—The 96 c. is reported on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 1 c., grey-green.
- 2 c., purple and black on red paper.
- 4 c. " blue.
- 5 c. " on blue paper.
- 6 c., grey-black and ultramarine.
- 12 c., purple and violet.
- 24 c. " green.
- 48 c., grey and chocolate.
- 60 c., green and carmine.
- 96 c., purple and carmine.

Cayman Islands.—Ewen's *Weekly Stamp News* announces the receipt of the 1d. value on multiple CA paper. This with the other values chronicled on p. 301, *G.S.W.*, Vol. I, completes the series on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- ½d., green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 2½d., ultramarine.
- 6d., brown.
- 1s., orange.

Ceylon.—Ewen's *Weekly Stamp News* has received the 30 c. on multiple CA, completing the series on the new paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 2 c., orange-brown.
- 3 c., green.
- 4 c., orange and ultramarine.
- 5 c., purple.
- 6 c., carmine.
- 12 c., sage-green and rosine.
- 15 c., blue.
- 25 c., light brown.
- 30 c., violet and green.
- 75 c., dull blue and orange.
- 1 r. 50 c., grey.
- 2 r. 25 c., brown and green.

China.—According to Continental contemporaries the 5 c., which has undergone so many changes of shade, has now been changed from salmon to violet.



Change of colour.

5 cents, violet.

Morocco Agencies.—We have received from our publishers the 1 and 2 pesetas, King's Heads, wmk. single CA.



**Morocco
Agencies**

Wmk. Single C.A. Perf.

- 5 c., grey-green and green.
- 10 c., purple on red paper.
- 20 c., grey-green and carmine.
- 25 c., lilac and black on blue.
- 50 c., violet.
- 1 p., black and carmine.
- 2 p. " blue.

MISCELLANEOUS

A Good Bit of Business

NEXT morning I called on the said Father J—— in the Rue de Sèvres; he gave me an imposing-looking package, which, trembling a little, I opened before him, and from which I drew forth a parcel containing twelve entire sheets of each of the two values, 1 real, blue, and 2 reales, green, of the Philippine Islands, issue of 1854 and 1855. None of the 5 or the 10 cuartos of the same issue could be found, but in place of the former there were about ten sheets of the 5 cuartos, red, of 1862, with coarse network in the spandrels, a rare thing even at that time.

The whole lot being reckoned at face value, it resulted that the sheet of the 1 real cost me fr.26.85, or £1. 1s. 6d., and the sheet of the 2 reales cost me fr.53.70, or £2. 3s. Need I say that these sheets went off as if by magic at the price of 400 francs each? No one had ever before seen the stamps of "Luzon" otherwise than singly, a copy here and there, obliterated, and generally in very bad condition, which did not prevent people from struggling for them at high prices. But the forty varieties all together had never been seen so far; it was a revelation, as in the case of the New Caledonia, when I received the first entire sheet of them, as related above.

In fixing the price of the sheet of the forty varieties at 400 francs, or 10 francs per stamp, scarcely one-third of the price of an obliterated copy, I was offering collectors a real gift! Thus everybody flew upon the sheets like a hungry wolf upon a tender lamb; the collectors sought them whole for their albums; the dealers wanted them for cutting up and selling retail at a respectable profit. Eleven sheets of each value were sold entire, and the twelfth was cut up for retail sale at the price of 30 francs per stamp, with the exception, of course, of the error CORROS of the 1 real, blue. This was what, I think, may be called "a good bit of business."

M. MAHE in the *Monthly Journal*.

The Stone of New Caledonia

MR. ALBIS, in an article on New Caledonia written for the *Timbrophile*, had mentioned my selling for 1000 francs, as I have related already, an entire sheet of the stamps of that country. *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, in reproducing this statement, made a little mistake, and instead of "plate", which as applied to printed matter is the same as "sheet," translated "une planche" by "one stone", which is quite another thing, as everybody knows. Starting therefrom, this *Philatelist* infers that, "according to M. Mahé himself he possesses one of the numerous 'stones' from which were printed the stamps of New Caledonia, and he will certainly swear to their authenticity, etc. etc. . . ."

Did anybody ever see anything so immensely idiotic? I need not quote the final reply, which is not called for here.

M. MAHE in the *Monthly Journal*.

Major Evans on Cretan Designs

IN the centre, on all except two of the values, is a device which, we are told, represents "Crete, a Slave." This consists of a Female Figure, seated on a rock, and wearing nothing but a pair of trousers and a gun. The costume seems to imply a certain amount of Freedom; we know of countries, supposed to be free, where a mere man is expected to add at least a waist-

coat, even in the warmest weather, and cannot carry a gun at any time without a licence; and where ladies are only permitted to "wear the breeches" metaphorically. Is it possible that there is a postal reference in the garment of the lady, and that it represents the mail-bags?

Monthly Journal.

Indian Native States

WHILE the separate stamp issues of some of the Native Indian States have been discontinued, we cannot say that there is any strong likelihood that the other States will agree to having their distinctive issues supplanted by the regular stamps of India. The Indian Post Office has postal conventions with some of the States that use the Imperial stamps overprinted. Some years ago it was said: "The Post Office is endeavouring to obtain the closing of all the native post offices, but some of the rajahs are strenuously opposed to the closing of their offices, and consider that they would be shorn of a part of their dignity, much in the way as if their salutes were reduced to a few guns. It will probably take years to overcome the resistance of the rajahs and close the whole of their post offices."

Mekkeel's Weekly Stamp News.

Stamps Detached in the Post

A NEW sort of postal mark is described and illustrated in *Le Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste*. This is a circular handstamp applied in America to letters which, on receipt at the head or district post office, are found minus their stamp or stamps, the same having obviously become detached in the post. The inscription reads: "Postage stamp detached before receipt at New York Post Office."

Unused and Used

ONE of the favourite arguments of the champions of what we may term the postally used school, is that until a stamp has performed the duty for which it was issued it has not attained its most collectable phase. We hardly think that this view will find very wide acceptance, for the chief aim of collectors of anything—books, coins, china, old furniture, etc.—is to obtain their specimens in a condition as closely allied to their original state as possible. Thus the numismatist attaches more value to a coin in mint condition than to one that has performed much useful service; a collector of rare china prefers his pots, jugs, plates, etc., in perfect state, and would certainly not deem those that show evidence of constant use of greater interest; a bibliophile will pay a long price for a rare book in original bindings, uncut, and in the same state as published, whereas he would not pay more than a small sum for a similar work that had enjoyed a useful life, but had got somewhat dilapidated through constant handling; and again, the man who collects antique furniture does not attach any extra value to a piece that has been scratched and marked and battered during the period of its performance of the duty for which it was made, but rather wants his specimens in as perfect a state as possible. Therefore we hold collectors are only acting sensibly by deeming a stamp in mint state of more interest and value than the most perfect used copy.

The West End Philatelist.

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THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS



SHE PRESENTED THE ENGAGED COUPLE

CHAPTER XXVII

Showing how one may always leave something to chance

WHEN evening came, William, who, without saying anything about it to Miss Betty, had spent his day in fruitless efforts to recover the lost traces of Mr. Thomas Simpson, at length determined on wending his way to Montgomery Street, where, as we know, the rooms of the Philatelic Club were situated.

Since that morning the Stamp King had been indulging in what is generally known as "a fit of the blues." He could not forgive himself for having burnt Prince Albrandi's receipt, that receipt which would have given him the right of claiming the Brahmapootra stamp, if he could but discover where it was. Was there not at least a chance that he, William Keniss, might be the first to find it and not Miss Betty Scott, who, certain now of victory sooner or later, would most likely rest in fancied security?

So William Keniss was walking sadly towards the Philatelic Club, when, passing through a narrow street, but dimly lighted by the fading day, he noticed, stuck on the inside of the window of a little *bric-à-brac* shop, a sheet of about a hundred stamps of various colours arranged in rows. Like a true philatelist William Keniss stopped to examine this sheet, to make quite sure that no rarity had by accident found its way there. And we can well imagine his stupefaction when he recognised among those common specimens the one stamp for which he had

been searching so long in the charming companionship of Miss Betty—the celebrated Brahmapootra!

"Impossible!" he cried, starting forwards and peering anxiously into the window. "I must be mad or dreaming! I must assuredly be the victim of some strange and wild hallucination!"

The young American pinched his arm till it was black and blue in order, through any sensation whatever, to bring himself back to commonplace realities. The pain it caused him forced a cry from his lips.

"No, I am certainly not dreaming!" he murmured. And, in fact, he was not. It was indeed the Brahmapootra stamp at which he was gazing, and, as he easily recognised, the same wonderfully fine copy which Prince Albrandi had allowed him to admire at his leisure at Naples, the very evening that Count Orsikoff, taking advantage of the solitude in which the rooms of the villa were left, had with such incomparable audacity made off with it. It was the very same stamp, there was no doubt of it, and in the company of the common stamps that surrounded it on the sheet, it produced, as you might say, with its beautiful golden lustre, the effect which would be produced by a real diamond in a necklace, all the other stones of which were paste.

But how, and by what concatenation of circumstances could the stamp have got there? William Keniss wasted no more time looking at it, but precipitately entered the shop, to discover by what mysterious chance a small dealer like that came to possess an article of so great value.

"You have a stamp in your window which is not priced," he said, pointing out the famous little scrap

of paper, "and I should like to buy it. What do you want for it?"

"Ah, yes! Well, I hardly know. I bought it this morning with a number of other little things from a man who came in and seemed in a great hurry to dispose of them."

"Our receiver of stolen goods," thought William.

"They won't bring me in much, when all's said and done. Here, you can have it for five cents if you like."

"Five cents!" cried William, in a tone that would have convinced the dealer, if he had only been a little more wide awake, that he was making, to say the least of it, a bad bargain. "Five cents! Certainly, I will take it without hesitation."

"There you are then." And the dealer took the Brahmoputra stamp from the sheet and handed it to William Keniss, who gave him in exchange the required five cents.

The Stamp King certainly felt some compunction at paying so ridiculous a price for such a rarity, but he had no wish to give more for it just at this moment because he wanted to astound his friends at the Philatelic Club, and particularly pretty Miss Betty, with the intelligence that he had just given five cents for a stamp that, to an enthusiast like himself, was absolutely priceless, or, at any rate, worth hundreds and thousands of dollars.

"I will make up for it by bringing a nice little sum to the good dealer to-morrow," thought William, as he hastened towards the Philatelic Club.

But this little adventure had made him somewhat late, and when he at length arrived he found they were only waiting for him to sit down to dinner. Every one was there, even to Mr. Hartlepool, who, as we remember, was not always to be relied upon for punctuality.

"Come, come, now we can begin!" cried the fat Dr. Buxon, seeing his young colleague enter and start round the room, shaking hands with every one he met.

"Are you so hungry as all that?" asked little Mrs. Tilmarnock.

"As all that! On my word, my heart's in my boots!"

"Has it indeed sunk so far below your waist, do you think?" interrogated Mrs. Evans-Bradford, who, since the last club dinner, had not overcome the habit of enlivening the conversation with a little spirited repartee.

"High or low, what does it matter?" grumbled Buxon, slightly piqued. "It is nearly half-past seven, and so high time for dinner! I like stamps very well, but not enough to make me lose my appetite for good food and drink!"

This unexpected outburst on the part of the fat doctor provoked a general chorus of protestations from the assembled philatelists.

"Wretch!" "Traitor!" sounded from all parts of the room. But luckily for Buxon a waiter appeared at this very moment to announce that dinner was ready.

So William Keniss offered his arm to his friend Miss Betty, and the various couples filed off to the dining-room, Mrs. Tilmarnock on Mr. Hartlepool's arm, Mrs. Evans-Bradford escorted by old Pearding, and so on. As for the enormous Buxon, gallantry was not in his line, and he was quite content to march off to his seat alone, after which his first speech, as he noticed the radiant faces of the Stamp King and his companion, was—

"Well, considering their ill-success, they look pretty triumphant!"

"It is not success which brings happiness, but the sense of a duty accomplished," retorted the Hon. Tilmarnock frigidly.

It is unnecessary to state that from the very commencement of dinner the only topic of conversation was the journey to Europe of William Keniss and Betty Scott. The little American had, before this, commenced an account of her exploits, which she now finished. Then it was William's turn for his, and he gave it, we need hardly say, with a sufficiently good grace. No detail of their stirring adventures in London, Paris, or Naples was forgotten. The interview with the Maharajah, the numerous incarnations of Mr. Mamby, Miss Betty's plunge into the ocean, Prince Albrandi's fete, etc. etc., every detail, in fact, of this extraordinary journey was supplied by one or other of the travellers.

"And to think that after such efforts and the display of so much courage you should have to return to us with empty hands!" cried Mr. Hartlepool.

"Yes, it is enough to discourage the boldest among us," said Mr. Whitby.

"Those who pride themselves on their courage need never be daunted," said Miss Betty vivaciously.

"But——"

"Don't speak of 'but.' Whatever you may say, I do not consider myself the least bit beaten, in spite of the ill-success of my first attempts, and no later than to-morrow morning I intend to begin again!"

"Bravo! Bravo! Hurrah for Miss Betty!" sounded on all sides.

"Hurrah for the Stamp Queen!" added William Keniss.

The name was taken up at once, and every member of the Philatelic Club, with the exception of the great Buxon, who was just absorbed in an enormous help of *foie gras*, rose to his feet with one accord and shouted enthusiastically—

"Hurrah for the Stamp Queen!"

Miss Betty coloured deeply with emotion.

"Ladies and gentlemen," she said modestly, "I do not know how to thank you for having so spontaneously conferred upon me a title to which I have really no right."

A significant and protesting "Oh! oh!" showed how deep and general was the admiration which the dauntless young girl had aroused.

"It seems to me," she continued, "that it is not at all my health that you ought to drink this evening, but that of Mr. William Keniss, who is in truth the Stamp King, and whose collection, in spite of all my efforts, remains to-day the one only complete collection in all the world. So here's to Mr. William Keniss, the Stamp King!"

"The Stamp King!" was the universal cry as the glasses clinked again.

But William Keniss had risen, and in the midst of a silence which would have been profound but for the regular movement of Buxon's heavy jaws, he began—

"Miss Betty has just made a statement to the effect that mine is the one only complete stamp collection in the world. Now in this Miss Betty is mistaken."

The philatelists all stared at one another in astonishment.

"There are, in fact, two complete collections!" continued William.

"Two complete collections?" cried Betty sharply.

"Yes, Miss Betty."

"Two!"

"Mine—excuse me for mentioning it first—and yours!"

"Mine?"

(To be concluded.)

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Victorian Letter

MELBOURNE, 26 October, 1905.

Stamps issued on the new Federal Paper

SINCE I last wrote several stamps have been issued on the new Federal paper, namely, the 1d. and 2d. Victoria, Queen's Head type, and the 1d. and 3d. Tasmanian Pictorial issue. The specimens I have seen of the 2d. Victoria and 1d. Tasmania were both perforated 12½, the 3d. Tasmanian being perf. 11, and the 1d. Victoria both perf. 12½ and perf. 11. In addition to the above stamps, the 5d. West Australia Swan type has been issued on paper watermark V and Crown sideways, and perforated both 11 and 12½. It is difficult to understand the appearance of the Tasmania and West Australia stamps on these papers, in view of the announcement in the daily Press that no more of the Pictorial Tasmanian or Swan type West Australian stamps would be issued after the stock on hand was exhausted.

Another pair of Victorian Too Late Stamps

Another pair of Victorian Too Late stamps has turned up in Melbourne. The pair in question is a vertical one, and is in very nice condition, excepting that the bottom stamp is slightly cut into. This makes the third pair of this stamp that is known in Victoria. The stamp being found in pairs is doubtless due to the fact that one stamp paid the postage on the letter that it was found on, and the second stamp paid the Too Late fee.

Sale of the Kelson Collection

Mr. A. G. Kelson, who has been collecting for many years, disposed of his collection of Australian stamps at a satisfactory figure a few weeks ago. The collection, although not very strong in scarce stamps, contained nothing but choice picked copies, and has taken him many years to gather. It comprised the stamps of the following States: Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, New Zealand, and Tonga. Amongst the best stamps I noted the following: Victoria: First issue, 2d., with fine background and border; 1d., Emblem, watermark Star, perforated 12; 2d., Emblem, no watermark, perforated; 6d., orange, figure at sides; 4d., ditto, rouletted, watermark single-line "4"; also an unperforated pair of the same stamp; 1d., Laureated, watermark double-line "4"; 1s., Registered, rouletted; and the scarce 35s. Duty stamp. Tasmania: 1d., blue, first issue; 1d., pelure, and 2d., no watermark, second issue; £1, used, and 2s. 6d. and £1 surcharged REVENUE, postally used. South Australia: 1s., imperf. and rouletted, orange; 4d., watermark V and Crown; 2d., second type, watermark Star, issue of 1869, perf. by roulette. New Zealand: 2d., London print; 2d., no watermark, perf.; 1s., pelure paper, imperf.; and 6d., pelure, perf. New South Wales: a nice selection of Sydney Views; 3d., Laureated on blue paper, error WACES; three copies of the 6d. and two copies of the 8d. Laureated issue. The purchaser is a collector in one of the neighbouring States, who has bought the collection to add to his own.

A find of 4d. blue Tasmania

The following little story comes from Hobart, Tasmania. A collector in that city, who is always on the look out for bargains, called in at a store to pay an account that he owed. In the office there was one of those old-fashioned desks, railed off at the top, that the clerk opened to find a Duty stamp to put on a receipt. While searching for the stamp the clerk rested the flap of the desk on his head, exposing the contents of the desk to the collector's view.

"Hello! What have you got here?" the collector asked, picking up a block of stamps from out of the desk.

"Oh, they are some 4d. stamps that have been lying in the desk for many years, as I seldom use that value, and I shall be glad to change them for 1d. or 2d. values."

"Right you are. I will change that for you," said the collector.

The stamps were the 4d., blue, issue of 1870.

A Letter for Hellsgate

A letter was recently received here addressed to some person at Hellsgate, Australia. The postal officials, not knowing where the place was, thought it would naturally be situated in the tropical part of Queensland, so it was forwarded accordingly. One of the officials in that particularly hot region looked at the address, "Hellsgate," for a moment, and then endorsed it, "Almost, but not quite. Try further on."

Mr. Hausburg's Visit

In the June *Monthly Journal*, Mr. Hausburg gives an account of his visit to Australia, in which the following sentence occurs: "I was disappointed to find how little result was to be obtained by advertising for stamps." This is not to be wondered at, seeing that local residents have been doing the same thing for the past fifteen to twenty years, and during late years with practically no results. Later on in the article, in speaking of unused early issues of Australia, Mr. Hausburg writes as follows: "Few are to be found in dealers' stocks; in fact, old unused Australians in fine condition are almost unattainable in Australia." This is quite correct, and it is a mistaken idea to think, as many English collectors do, that all that is necessary is for them to ask for these stamps unused, and there is an unlimited supply of them in Australia, and that they can get them in blocks or in sheets. The few copies that have turned up in years gone by are due more to accident than design, and the greatest part of these have found their way to England. Some collectors who have visited Melbourne have been innocent enough to think that they can buy all the early issues unused at the Post Office. It is only when you begin to search for these unused early Australian stamps that you realize how scarce they are in Australia.

CHARLES B. WONNE.

'A SPLENDID START. THE FINEST PACKET.

Packet No. 67, 1000 varieties. This packet contains 1000 different Stamps (and no Envelopes, Bands, and Cards), and is the cheapest packet ever offered by S. G., Ltd., satisfaction being absolutely guaranteed. The price it is offered at is the lowest ever quoted for such a collection, embracing as it does scores of scarce varieties, provisionals, new issues, and many very fine and obsolete varieties. 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Enterprise Philatelic Society

Secretary: A. C. Constantinides, Woodview, Archway Road, Highgate, London, N.

Meetings: Monthly, Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C.

THE twenty-sixth ordinary monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, 15 November, 1905, at the Devonshire House Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., and was well attended, twenty-two members having signed the roll.

In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, Mr. H. W. Westcott was elected to occupy the chair, and called the meeting to order at 6.30 p.m., when the minutes of the previous meeting were read and duly signed.

Ten new members were elected as follows: Messrs. H. Thorman, Leytonstone; E. A. Smart, Peckham; B. Bigg, Luton; H. Lee, New Cross; G. J. Arnold, Woolwich; H. V. Brand, Cricklewood; K. J. Mulder, Cricklewood; A. H. L. Giles, Fulham; D. H. Jackson, Stroud Green; and A. Barker, Cawnpore.

Votes of thanks were passed to the following members for donations to the Society's collection of forgeries and reprints: Messrs. O. Marsh, F. A. Meggy, J. R. Burton, and C. H. Moulds.

The initial item on the programme was a display with notes of the stamps of Barbados, by Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., of Rochdale. The collection was contained on twenty-seven cards, and formed a very fine exhibit, which was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated.

A general display by members of King's Head Colonials was the next item. Nearly every one present had sheets to display, and these, together with seventy-five cards sent by Mr. Heginbottom, made up a truly remarkable show of stamps. Evidently members of the Enterprise have lost no time in securing the issues of the last two or three years. Every colony was well represented either unused or used, and it was a matter of regret that more time could not be spent in examining the various selections shown. Votes of thanks were passed to Mrs. H. J. Bignold and the following gentlemen for their displays: Messrs. E. Heginbottom, J. R. Burton, C. H. Moulds, O. Marsh, A. G. Schofield, P. Farnan, and A. H. Harris.

The meeting was then treated to a display of the Society's collection of reprints and forgeries, accompanied with notes, by the Hon. Counterfeit Detector, Mr. H. W. Westcott. This collection is growing rapidly and is now a most useful asset of the Society. It may not be generally known that Mr. Westcott has power to loan any particular specimen for the purpose of comparison, and all members who are in doubt as to the genuineness of any of their stamps should take advantage of this concession.

Any information relating to the aims and conduct of the Society will be gladly furnished on application to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Herts Philatelic Society

President: F. Reichenheim, Esq.

Secretary: H. A. Slade, Esq., "Nine-Fields," St. Albans.

Meetings: 4 Southampton Row, W.C., Third Tuesdays.

Subscription: 5s. annually.

A CROWDED room welcomed Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg on 21 November, when he displayed his West Australians to the members of the above Society. The President occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. H. L. Hayman (Vice-President), T. H. Harvey, W. G. Cool, J. C. Sidebotham (Librarian),

W. A. Boyes, A. Bagshawe, W. T. Standen, L. A. Bradbury, C. H. Garnett, M. Simons, A. H. L. Giles, R. Frentzel, J. Chapman, J. C. Lincoln, A. W. McLean, F. W. Mellor, E. Bounds, D. J. Thomson, J. B. Neyroud, L. P. Walker, K. Wiehen, A. G. Wane, W. Simpson, L. Magnee, A. R. Barrett, H. Wills, R. H. A. Deere, and one visitor, besides Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg and Mr. H. A. Slade (Secretary)—an attendance of over thirty. The following members were elected at the general meeting: Dr. Rayley Owen, Hyde Park; Mr. E. A. Cooper, Scarborough; Mr. F. Read, Clapton Common; Mr. W. Cowland, Blackboys, Sussex.

A donation was voted out of the funds of the Society to the forthcoming Exhibition.

Mr. H. L. Hayman has generously given three volumes of Gibbons' *Imperial Stamp Album* for the Permanent Collection, and Mr. Reichenheim and Mr. Bagshawe have given two volumes each of the *Oriental Album* to act as supplements.

On the proposition of Mr. Boyes, seconded by Mr. Cool, the Secretary was instructed to write a suitable letter of congratulation to Sir William Avery, Bart., in the name of the Club, on the baronetage recently conferred. The new baronet is a warm supporter of the Club.

A large donation was received from Dr. Webster for the Permanent Collection, and stamps were also received from Mr. Boyes, and choice forgeries from Lieut.-Colonel Adamson, Mr. F. Reichenheim, and Mr. Reade for the Forgery Collection.

Business being completed, the members turned to the consideration of Mr. Hausburg's gems, and seldom, if ever, has so complete a collection been handed round. Some useful notes were given, and Mr. Hausburg explained the deductions which enabled him to place the inverted swan (or "inverted frame," to be strictly accurate) as the first stamp in the eighth row on pane 1. He also explained its probable position on the other panes. A superb copy was in the collection, as also one of the "squashed Australia" variety, an even rarer stamp. The difference between the perfectly clean cut, not so clean cut, and rough perforations was also lucidly pointed out. The copies were all in perfect condition, one of the 2d., mauve, 1879, calling forth special praise, and the colours of some of the later issues could not possibly have been bettered.

In proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hausburg, Mr. Boyes stated that every one saw what the lecturer had got, and it would be interesting to know if there was anything he had not got. Mr. Wane seconded the vote, which was carried with cheers.

Mr. Hausburg suitably replied, and said that there was one stamp he did not possess—the 1s., bistre, of 1869; but, as the result of a conversation with more than one chemist on the transmutation of colours, he had no special desire to give a long price for this stamp.

For some time after the display the members were engaged in animated discussion and exchange.

Liverpool Philatelic Society

President: Herbert Woods.

Secretary: W. Halfpenny, 28 Dacey Street, Liverpool.

Meetings: Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. 7 p.m.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the above Society was held at the Angel Hotel, Dale Street, on Monday, 20 November. A good number of members and friends were present, and after the usual preliminaries had been transacted, a discussion on "Collecting as a

Hobby" took place, opened by Mr. John Hughes. This gentleman, who is an ex-President of the Society, commenced his remarks by impressing upon the members the advantages of stamp collecting from a purely scientific point of view, excluding entirely any question of financial interest. He pointed out the useful lessons of keen observation and knowledge of detail, as well as the more or less unconscious acquisition of history and geography to be gained by the study of stamps, and then made some interesting and amusing comparisons between the earliest published catalogues and those of the present day. Other speakers followed, and many valued remarks were made, specially by Messrs. Beer and Savage.

A fine exhibit of the stamps of British Bechuana-land and Panama followed. The show of Panama by Mr. Beer was particularly admired, and that of British Bechuana-land by Mr. Rockliff called for considerable notice.

Philatelic Society of Victoria

President : W. R. Rundell.

Secretary : W. Brettschneider.

Meetings : 128 Russell Street, Melbourne.

The general meeting of the above Society was held on 19 October, 1905, at eight o'clock, at the rooms, 128 Russell Street.

Mr. W. R. Rundell, the President occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

The minutes of the last general meeting were read and confirmed.

The following further contributions to the two collections now in course of formation by the Society were made: Mr. A. J. Duncan, Australians; Mr. Chester, set of current Victoria, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5s., unused; and Messrs. Holroyd and Jackson, forgeries.

Messrs. Molesworth and Frost having been recommended by the Committee, were next balloted for and duly elected members of the Society.

The principal business of the evening was, however, the discussion of the rules for the formation of a Junior Associates' Branch of the Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The President, in introducing the subject, thanked Mr. Jackson, who had taken the lion's share in drafting the rules, and then read the rules, which were eventually approved of, and are now as follows:—

1. The name of the new branch shall be—"The Junior Associates' Branch of the Philatelic Society of Victoria."

2. The object shall be to encourage the scientific study and collection of postage stamps and exchange among members.

3. Young ladies and youths under twenty years

may be elected as members. Age limit, twenty-one years.

4. Candidates for admission as members must be proposed and seconded by members of the Society at one ordinary meeting, or the nominations may be handed to the Secretary fourteen days before an ordinary meeting, and the candidate shall be balloted for at the next, three black balls to exclude. The names of the candidates and their addresses, together with the names of the proposer and seconder, shall appear upon the notice paper convening the meeting at which the ballot for such candidate shall be held. Rejected candidates cannot be again proposed for a year after their rejection.

5. The branch shall be governed by the Committee of the parent Society.

6. The subscription shall be 2s. per half-year, payable in advance.

7. Members will be supplied with the *Australian Philatelist*.

8. Special exchange books will be made up for this branch, to which both members of the parent Society and the Junior Branch may contribute four sheets for each book. These books will be available for members at the Society's rooms between the hours of 12.30 and 5.30. All stamps removed must be paid for at time of selection.

9. Stamps for sale or exchange must be mounted on the Society's sheets, which can be obtained from the Secretary at 4d. per dozen. These sheets must bear only the name of the owner, and the price of each stamp must be legibly marked thereon in ink. Also the total amount of the sheets. All stamps must be affixed to sheets by means of paper hinges.

10. Reference to the library can be made by members of this branch in the presence of the Secretary or a member of the parent Society.

11. That monthly meetings of the Junior Branch be arranged for, when a sufficient number are on the rolls, and in the meantime any member be permitted to attend the general meetings of the parent Society, but have no voice in any proposal nor vote on any motion brought forward.

12. Five per cent commission will be deducted by the Society from the total amount of exchanges.

Mr. Littlewood proposed, and Mr. Chester seconded, that the rules as read be adopted, which was carried.

The Secretary received instruction to insert a notice in two papers drawing attention to the Junior Associates' Branch.

The business being now over, Mr. C. B. Donne entertained those present with the latest importations on Edison's graphophone, which were thoroughly enjoyable, and he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I, all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

DECEMBER, 1905

11. Scottish Philatelic Society (Edinburgh): Great Britain, R. Kerr.

12 & 13. Auction: Glendining and Co., 7, Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Auction: Puttick and Simpson, 47, Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.

13. International Philatelic Union: Display—India and Ceylon, with Notes by J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

14 & 15. Auction: Plumridge and Co., 64, Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.

15. Manchester Philatelic Society: Elementary Discussion—Montserrat and St. Christopher, opened by J. H. Abbott.

16. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; Paper—"Hayti for Beginners"; Fred. J. Melville. Humorous Paper—"On Nothing in Particular—Especially Stamps"; W. E. Imeson. Display—African Colonies III: Transvaal from 1878; Natal from 1859; and Orange River Colony.

18. Herts Philatelic Society: Display with Notes—Liberia, H. L. Hayman, Liverpool. Discussion—Collecting as an Investment, opened by W. C. Taylor. Display—United States.

19. Leeds Philatelic Society: Paper by Mr. E. Egly—"The Universal Postal Union: Its History and Progress."

20. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Display—Rare Stamps; F. W. Lake. Ten-minute Papers—Selected. General Sale and Exchange.

29. Dundee and District Philatelic Society: Display—Africa, Part II, with Notes; J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of Stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on Sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

THE BEST STAMP HINGES.

We have just prepared a new stamp hinge, of convenient size, put up in *air-tight tin boxes*, each containing 1000 hinges of good tough paper, doubly gummed, and thus easily peelable. Post-free, 7d. per box.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 25
Whole No. 50

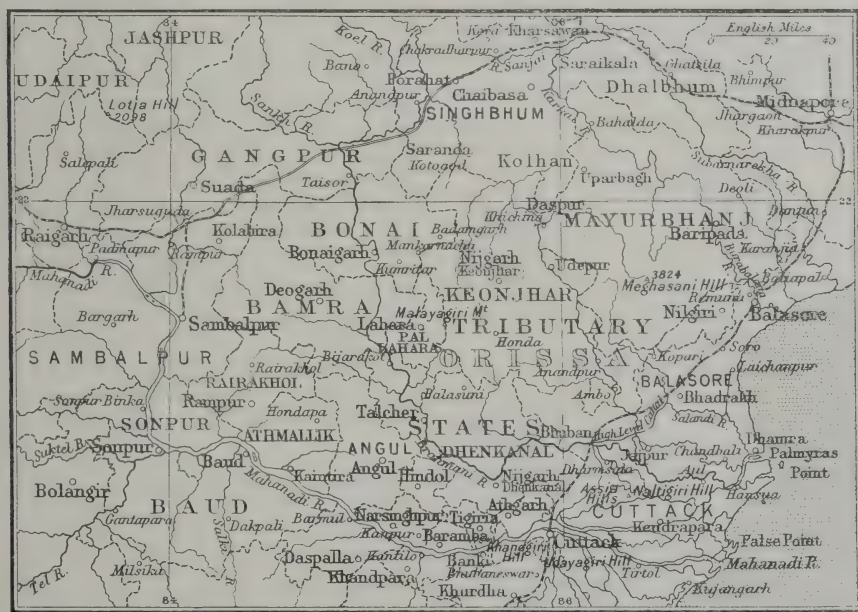
16 DECEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Bamra



BAMRA is an insignificant little State attached to Sambalpur District, Central Provinces. Dr. Hunter, in his *Gazetteer of India*, tells us that "an old road to Calcutta, now fallen into disuse, runs through from east to west. With this exception there is not a single made road in the State." But Bamra has probably made some progress since 1880, when

Dr. Hunter thus summed up its condition, for the population, which in 1877 was only 53,613, was in 1901 officially given as 123,378. Its gross revenue when Dr. Hunter wrote was only £600, no military force was maintained, and there were "only 7 houses, occupied by 51 persons," returned as of the better sort. Only three towns exceeded a population of 1000.

But it has magnificent sal forests, a timber ranking next in quality to teak, and its soil, all awaiting development.

Its Philatelic History

When this insignificant and almost unknown State began to issue postage stamps collectors shook their heads and fought very shy of them, and it was not till Major Evans took up the cudgels in its behalf that the chroniclers of new issues seriously admitted the curious little labels of Bamra to a place in their lists.

Major Evans's history and defence of the first issue is well worth quoting in full. It will be found in the *Monthly Journal*, Vol. I, p, 92 :—

Bamra and its stamps appear to have first come under the notice of collectors in February, 1890, when the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* chronicled the 4 and 8 annas of the first issue, and it is worthy of remark that the lower values were not noted till a few months later, being first described, as far as I can ascertain, in *Le Timbre-Poste* for August of that year.

In the meantime Messrs. Stanley, Gibbons, and Co. had written to Bamra for a supply of the stamps, and the correspondence which passed between the firm and the Bamra authorities has so important a bearing upon the question of the *bona fides* of those authorities in issuing the stamps that I have no hesitation in reproducing it here. The letter asking for a supply of stamps was despatched on 28 February, 1890, and enclosed a remittance of about £10. The reply was as follows :—

"The 21st April, 1890.

"FONT-MOGUE, BAMRA, C.P.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter of 28th February, 1890, I have the honour to say that the postage stamps in the Bamra Feudatory State are not worth the purpose you want them for. We have no machine here to stamp them properly; we have got them prepared like ordinary tickets by means of the printing press—for any one carrying on business. However, we send a sample of each class for your satisfaction, without charging anything for them. We return the note registered at our own expense.

"Yours faithfully,

(Signature illegible),

"Private Secretary to H.H. the Chief of Bamra."

The stamps enclosed were one of each value of the first issue. On receipt of this letter Messrs. Stanley, Gibbons, and Co. at once wrote off again, enclosing cash, and begging that the stamps might be sent. In reply they received fifty-nine stamps of the first issue, viz. three $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, twenty-eight $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, fifteen 1 anna, eight 2 annas, three 4 annas, and two 8 annas, and about eight hundred of the various values of the second issue, together with a letter, from which the following is an extract :—

"BAMRA, 5.8.90.

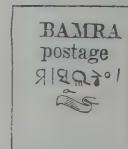
"DEAR SIR,—I received your kind letter of 3 July, 1890, and know that you want postage stamps used in the Bamra State to value of —. The postage sent you as samples are no longer in use in the State, for H.H. the Rajah has been pleased to change them into new form. I therefore have herewith sent you such numbers of each kind of stamps as are equal in value," etc. etc.

Now I think that these letters are sufficient, even if there were no further evidence, to disprove the assertion that has since been made, to the effect that

the stamps of Bamra were produced solely for sale to unwary collectors, and that they never had any postal use at all. I do not doubt that almost all the higher values of the first issue went into the hands of collectors and dealers, and that all but a very small proportion of subsequent supplies of all values went the same way. We know also that, since the State Post Office was absorbed by that of British India (and I gather that there must have been a State Post Office to be absorbed), remainders and perhaps reprints have been on sale in the State; but the fact remains that in the early part of 1890 the Bamra authorities refused to supply their stamps to an English dealer, and actually returned his money, which they certainly would not have done if the one object of issuing the stamps was to raise money in this way. . . . As a matter of fact, all the values are scarce—in the genuine original type—and, in my experience, the scarcest of all is the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, and the next scarcest the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, the very values that would have been used most. The only value of which I ever had an opportunity of purchasing an entire sheet was the 8 annas, and I much regret now that I neglected that opportunity, in the belief that entire sheets would probably be plentiful later on.

The separate issue of stamps for Bamra was discontinued in 1894.

1889. Six values. Design type-set, inscription in three lines with scroll ornament below. Our illustrations show a line around these inscriptions, but the actual stamps have no frame of any sort. There is a delightful array of variations of the setting and errors for the specialist, but the general collector will be satisfied with a sample of each value—if he can get them. The stamps were printed in black on coloured paper and were issued unperforated.

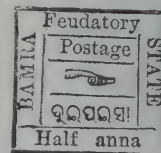


Imperforate.

Unused. Used.
s. d. s. d.

| | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, black on yellow . . . | | | | |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ " " " rose . . . | 15 | 0 | — | — |
| 1 " " " deep blue. . . | 30 | 0 | — | — |
| 2 annas " " green . . . | 30 | 0 | — | — |
| 4 " " " yellow . . . | 10 | 0 | — | — |
| 8 " " " rose . . . | 25 | 0 | — | — |

1890. Seven values, in a more elaborate design, but still type-set. This second issue had a framework with



a thick outer line, and the various portions of the inscriptions were divided by

rules. The stamps were printed in black on various coloured papers.

| | <i>Imperforate.</i> | Unused. <i>s. d.</i> | Used. <i>s. d.</i> |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, black on rose . . . | | 0 6 | 1 0 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ " " green . . . | | 0 2 | 0 6 |
| 1 " " yellow . . . | | 0 3 | 0 6 |
| 2 annas " rose-lilac . . . | | 0 8 | — |
| 4 " " rose-red . . . | | 3 6 | — |
| 8 " " " . . . | | 3 6 | — |
| 1 rupee " " . . . | | 5 0 | — |

1891. Six values. Design same type, but reset. Again printed in black on coloured paper.

| | <i>Imperforate.</i> | Unused. <i>s. d.</i> | Used. <i>s. d.</i> |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, black on rose . . . | | 0 4 | — |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ " " green . . . | | 0 4 | — |
| 2 annas " rose . . . | | 0 6 | 1 0 |
| 4 " " " . . . | | 1 0 | 1 6 |
| 8 " " " . . . | | 3 6 | — |
| 1 rupee " " . . . | | 3 0 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

STAMPS TO LOOK FOR

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 386)

Canada

THE name "Canada" is believed to have its origin in an Indian word, "Kannatha," meaning a village or collection of huts. It is supposed that Jacques Cartier, hearing the term used by the Indians in connexion with their settlements, applied it to the whole of the country. The said Cartier was a French sailor who, between 1534 and 1541, made three voyages of discovery to North America. A picture of his head appears on the 10d., blue, of the 1852-7 issue and on the 17 c., blue, of the issue of 1859. The former is valued at 35s. used and £12 unused, while the latter may be bought for 4s. used or 20s. unused.

The 6d., purple-black, and 12d., black, of 1851, the first issue, are among the world's rarest stamps. They have changed hands at £30 and £75 unused respectively.

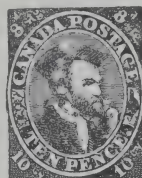


1851.



1851.

which date from 1868 would involve no great outlay. Its completion would not take long, nor would it entail much trouble. As a portrait gallery of the late Queen Victoria, it ranks an easy first



1852-7.

amongst the many colonies of the British Empire, and the reputation of Canada for portraiture is still maintained in its fine representation of King Edward in the current issue.

Cape of Good Hope

Recently we had occasion to describe the 4d., red, and the 1d., blue, errors in the wood-engraved provisional issue of



1861.

All the Canadian issues up to the year 1858, with one or two exceptions, are rare. A collection of the Dominion stamps

1861. The former has realized £52, while the latter, unknown in an unused condition, has been sold for £54. All the woodblock series of 1861 are very rare unused, and even used they are worth from £3 to £8 each.

Other rarities are the 1882, provisional surcharged issue, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 3d., black and claret, wmk. Crown CC, and the 5s., orange-yellow, of 1883, wmk. Crown CA.

Ceylon

Ceylon, in 1857-9, issued a series of which several have become great rarities. The palm, however, rests with the 4d., dull rose, which, unused, sold for £130 a dozen years and more ago. The other gems of the series are the 8d., deep yellow-brown, the 9d., lilac-brown, the 1s.9d., yellow-green, and the 2s., blue.

All the issues up to 1867 are valuable, and, with them, the 1885 series of surcharged stamps.



1857-9.

Cyprus

The British occupation of Cyprus dates from 1878. The current stamps of Great Britain, with the overprint CYPRUS, were issued in 1880. The reader will remember that the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue-rose, of this series was given away with the second number of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. Its catalogue value, unused, is 4d. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d., rose, 4d., pale-green, 6d., grey, and 1s., green, are very scarce.

The 1d. red, overprinted CYPRUS, and with its equivalent of 30 PARAS, appeared in 1881. A specimen with double surcharge, one inverted, is the rarest of Cyprus stamps. It is catalogued at £8 unused and £6 used.

Gambia

Embossed stamps were the rule in Gambia for nearly thirty years. In an unused condition they are extremely attractive, but care should be taken lest the embossed head should be crushed between the leaves

of an album. The first two issues are valuable, used or unused, while the 1880



1869.

issue is by no means common, especially in the case of the 4d., 6d., and 1s.

Heligoland

Great Britain ceded Heligoland (Holy Land) to Germany in 1890. Up to 1867 the stamps of Hamburg were used. In that year a special series was issued. Other series followed down to the year 1879. Most of these, if genuine, are rare. Unfortunately, reprints of these stamps have been made over and over again. Forged postmarks have also been added in many cases to enhance the value. The reader may, therefore, take warning, and beware of sets offered at a few shillings. The safe way is not to buy a Heligoland stamp except from a reliable firm of stamp dealers, or after examination by an expert.



1867.



1875.

Hong Kong

There are few rarities in Hong Kongs. The 96 c., yellow-brown, of 1865, and the 18 c., lilac, of 1867, are among the number. Some of the early surcharged issues are mounting up in price, as is also the case with the 10 c. on 30 c., green, with small Chinese surcharge, of 1898.

Malta

At first sight it seems strange that Malta should be represented by a stamp of the face value of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for a quarter of a century. True, the stamp underwent certain changes of shade and paper, and perforation and watermark. Nevertheless the fact remains that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value

was the only value printed. How, then, was correspondence with the world outside prepaid? Briefly thus: Current stamps of Great Britain of face value from 1d. to 1s. were sent out to be used for ex-insular correspondence. Letters received from outside were distributed by the Maltese Post Office at a charge of one halfpenny, and the ½d., buff, of 1860 was used for prepaying this rate. This stamp on blued paper, perf. 14, is a rarity.



1861.

Mauritius

What stamp collector has not heard of the 1d. and 2d. POST OFFICE Mauritius stamps? Of all stamps, they are the *rareæ aves*. H. R. H. The Prince of Wales paid £850 for a specimen of the 1d., red, and £1450 for the 2d., blue. Thirty years ago these stamps might have been bought for some four pounds each; and now they are the sort of things one dreams about but never sees. Originally 500 of each value were printed, but they were in use for a few days only. Some twenty-two or twenty-three copies are known to exist, and these are mainly in the hands of collectors in Great Britain and France.



1847.

Mauritius is undoubtedly a preserve of the "Great Mogul." No philatelist, unless he have unlimited means, can hope to form a full collection of its issues. The history of the 2 CENTS surcharged on 13 c., slate, in 1887 is interesting reading. The stock of 2 c., green, of the 1885 issue had run very low. A number of 13 c., slate, were therefore sent off to the printer to be surcharged with the value wanted. The printing was so badly done that the work was stopped when some twenty

sheets, of 120 stamps each, had been thus surcharged. The ship bringing a fresh supply of 2 c. stamps was signalled at this juncture. Unfortunately sickness on board caused a delay of some four hours in the landing of the mails. The last 2 c., green, was sold and the postal officials were compelled to fall back on the badly printed surcharged stamps until the new supply of 2 c. could be brought from the ship. Some forty or sixty of the provisional surcharged stamps were sold. The rest were bought by dealers.

New Brunswick

The whim of a Postmaster-General was responsible for the appearance of a stamp which has now become a great rarity. The currency of New Brunswick was changed from "pence" to "cents." A new issue of stamps was therefore ordered, and Mr. Charles Connell, the said Postmaster-General, conceived the idea of



1860.

having his own portrait represented on the 5 CENTS value. The design was disapproved, and another, bearing a design of the head of our late Queen Victoria, was substituted. Five hundred thousand of the "Connell" 5 cents are said to have been printed. Most of these must have been destroyed, as there are not many copies known. The stamp has changed hands for £37. It is now catalogued at £30.

Newfoundland

For picturesqueness, give me a collection of "Newfoundlands." Heraldic emblems, seals and fishes, dogs and



1857.

ships, are here; and what portrait gallery of four generations can be produced to equal that of the 1897-1901 issue?

Unfortunately the first few issues are out of the reach of the average collector; but a collection of the stamps issued during the last thirty-three years is not to be despised.

Among the rarities I note the 4d., scarlet, vermilion, of 1857, sold for £32. 10s., and the 6d. of the same issue, which has realized £30.

New South Wales

A short account of the world-famed Sydney Views has already appeared in an article of mine on pages 88 and 89 of

Vol. I. A block of five of the 1d., red, was sold by auction a few months ago in London for £235. Undoubtedly this country must remain the preserve of the rich specialist. Nor is money the only requisite. A knowledge of dies and paper and perforation is of paramount importance for a successful study of the minute differences which exist in many of the stamps.



(To be continued.)

INGLE-NOOK YARNS

"JIM SLINGSBY, PHILATELIST"

By C. RAYMOND MEGSON

THE good ship *Umsloopa* lay idly in the East India Dock, waiting for the tide. Her white hull shone resplendent amidst the grey surroundings. The shore gang had been "paid off," and though having quenched the thirst born of arduous toil, still lingered in the "Bremen Arms" with glass and pipe. And as they thus sat, Jim Slingsby, lighterman, entered. Jim, though of somewhat irascible disposition, was possessed of a rugged honesty and bluff moral courage which doubtless accounted for the high esteem in which he was held by these dock workers.

"'Ow goes it, mates?" said he, as he called for a drink.

"Orright," replied Dick Derry, a winchman. "Ship 'as shut aht, and we've bin working overtime to get her away to-night's tide."

"That's a bit of all right," responded Jim. "Things is a bit brighter than they was last year at this time"; and then he emptied his glass.

"'Ave another, Jim?" said Dick.

"No, thanks, mate; I'll wait till I gets 'ome to my missus and kid," was Jim's rejoinder.

"Go on, Jim, 'ave another," said several voices.

"'Avn't I said 'No'? When I sez 'No' I means 'No,' and not 'Yes,'" replied Jim, visibly annoyed. "And it would be more sarviceable to some o' you and your families if yer didn't spend so much time 'ere, but got 'ome."

There was a short silence after the delivery of this moral advice; then an adipose specimen of humanity, who had sipped not wisely, but too well, ejaculated in guttural tones, "What's good gettin' 'ome? Mis'able place. Missus cross, nipper crying; mis'able place—wish wasn't."

"P'raps yer don't try to make it 'appy," said Jim.

"P'raps, p'raps not. 'Ow can I make it 'appy, eh?" he queried.

"Easy; easy as sailing. Consider your wife—have something to take an interest in. Collect—don't matter what—but collect. Me and my nipper collects postage stamps. Stamps is fine things. There's the hunt for 'em, the beauty of 'em, the value of 'em, and the edicational advantages. And that's 'ow yer makes life a bit 'appier"; and Jim looked at his audience as if challenging some one to gainsay him.

"Don't want no ed'cation," said Jim's opponent; "'sides, go school if I did. And 'sides, don't b'lieve stamps ed'cate."

These remarks nettled Jim, who, diving into his breast pocket, produced from it an envelope. Shaking out some stamps, he separated them with his grimy fingers. "'Ere's proof," he said. "Look 'ere—Canada, 2 cents. That shows Canada is a cold place, 'cos the King 'as 'is fur overcoat on."

"Let's 'ave a look," said an interested spectator, and making a grab at the stamp in question, doubled up the corners.

"Be careful; you've creased it, and that crease'll always show white," said Jim.

"Sorry, mate," replied the culprit. "Put a daub o' red ink along the crease."

Jim picked up another stamp. "Look 'ere, 'United States of America, Columbus in sight of land, 1492—1892.'"

"Does that mean Columbus in sight o' land right along from 1492 to 1892? He'd be jolly 'ungry if he didn't go down below to 'ave no breakfast," said another spectator jocosely.

"No," said Jim, ignoring the laugh which followed this speech. "That's the period when they was in use. And now I've shown you a bit of the larning you can get from 'em, I'd just like to say, yer never know when a chap may 'ave to undergo a survey, so to speak, or go into dry dock for repairs, as I might say, and stamps would help pay expenses. I keeps all my duplicates; I've got lots of 'em with the Queen's head on. They've gone aht o' fashion, and consequently are getting valuabler every day." And Jim replaced the stamps in the envelope, and bade his friends good night.

When he reached home he found his wife crying. "Cheero!" he said. "What's up."

"Ahr little Jimmy is awful bad," she responded through her tears. The father rushed to his son's bedroom, and found the little fellow moaning with pain, and, after catechizing him awhile, found that

he had been at the breaking-up festivities at school, where there had been a plentiful supply of apples and nuts.

"Never mind," said Jim, caressingly; "I'll show yer some stamps I've got for you."

"Don't want to see none. I wants to die," tearfully ejaculated Jim's olive branch.

Deeming the little fellow must be very ill not to want to see new stamps, Jim went for the doctor, with whom he returned without loss of time.

With furrowed brow, watch in hand, and holding little Jim's pulse, the doctor diagnosed the case, and predicted the boy's recovery in a fortnight.

On the doctor's last visit he discovered Jim Slingsby busily engaged with several little piles of stamps. The doctor was an enthusiastic stamp collector himself, and asked to be permitted to look at the specimens. At a glance he perceived they were only common stamps, about five hundred in all, and worth little more than a shilling.

"What are you going to do with these?" he queried.

"Sell 'em," Jim replied. "I thought as 'ow they might come in a bit useful to help pay extra expense of my little nipper's illness."

The doctor's eyes kindled with merri-ment. "Suppose," said he, rather hesitatingly, "suppose, for instance, they paid the doctor's bill, would you be satisfied?"

"I think I should," slowly replied Jim.

"Well, Mr. Slingsby, if it will be all the same to you, and you will be *quite* satisfied, I will take them as my fee. I collect stamps."

Jim expressed his entire approval of such an action, and, placing the stamps in an envelope, gave them to the doctor, who transferred them to his inside pocket.

As Jim Slingsby sat by the fire after the doctor's departure, he said to his wife, "This'll prove to them blokes at the docks that there's value in stamps as well as edication."

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S PACKET.

No. 66, 500 varieties, is strongly recommended as the cheapest collection of 500 different Stamps ever offered—the Stamps could not be bought separately for three times the marvellously low price at which it is now offered. The Stamps, etc., are clean, picked specimens fit for any collection. The best 500 varieties in the trade. 4s. 1d., post-free.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

Labuan Redivivus

HERE'S an unexpected bit of good news, published in *The Times* of this morning (7 December, 1905), which will be received with a "Hip, hip, hurrah!" by philatelists all over the world:—

An agreement has been concluded with the Sultan of Brunei which provides for the appointment of a British Resident with powers to control the general administration of the State. As a matter of convenience in giving effect to this arrangement, it has been decided that His Majesty's Government shall resume the responsibility for the government of the Crown Colony of Labuan, the administration of which has been entrusted for some years to the British North Borneo Company.

A commission has been issued to Sir John Anderson, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Straits Settlements and High Commissioner for the Federated Malay States, appointing him to be Governor of Labuan in addition to his present duties.

The new arrangement will come into force on 1 January next.

Which means that the North Borneo Co. will no longer control the postal issues of Labuan and play its characteristically peculiar pranks with the stamps.

It means, of course, that Labuan will now be provided, as a Crown Colony, with a series of De La Rue King's Heads. It probably will also mean that Labuans, which, before the North Borneo Co. blight set in, were very popular amongst stamp collectors, will resume their place in philatelic estimation.

If our catalogues could make up their minds to wipe out the North Borneo rubbish, i.e. all so-called Labuan stamps commencing with 1894 up to the revival of Crown Colony control, they would do much to place Labuans on their feet again. As a collector of British Colonials, I shall certainly exclude the North Borneo rubbish from my Labuan pages, and I should imagine that most sane collectors will do the same.

North Borneo Cancelled Rubbish

It was a nasty knock that Gibbons gave the North Borneo Co. stuff when it made three columns of prices for Labuans, namely, one column for unused, the next for genuinely used, and a third column for the "cancelled-to-order" rubbish supplied by the North Borneo Co. from its London office, and which, though cancelled, never did postal duty of any sort. It was a neat and effective exposure.

Stamp-collecting Detectives

WHEN I called at Gibbons a few days since I suddenly found myself surrounded with an atmosphere of suspicion. When I penetrated to the *sanctum sanctorum* of the Managing Director I found that worthy head to head—not *tête-bêche*—with a detective, both of them looking as mysterious and knowing as they could. Then the boss of the show turned round and, recognizing me, popped this circular into my hands. "Read that," says he.

Yesterday a mail bag of registered letters was stolen from Southampton Street Post Office containing thirty-five registered letters from our firm to clients, most of which had enclosures of approval sheets of a hundred stamps each, or of a small blue-covered book containing six to twenty-four leaves of paper and stamps of various kinds, to the total value of several hundred pounds. In some of these letters there were also cheques to the value of over one thousand two hundred pounds.

Below we attach a list of a few of the rarest stamps which we could identify. If any of these are offered to you, will you kindly detain the person offering them and, if necessary, call in a constable, and communicate with us at once by telephone or telegraph?

Here is the list of the stolen stamps. They are a nice desirable little lot, of which any thief might, but probably would not, be proud:—

- British East Africa. 1891: $\frac{1}{2}$ anna on 2 annas, vermilion, error value spelt ANNAS. Dated "Mombasa Feb. 30 '91."
- Canada. 1852: 6d., purple, unused; 6d., purple-black, unused; 6d., dull purple, unused, thick paper.
- Cape. Triangular is., pale yellow-green, unused.
- Ceylon. 9d., wmk. Star, imperf., large margins, and of an uncommon shade.
- Tasmania. 1853: 1d., light blue, unused; 1d., dark blue, unused. 1856: 1d., brick-red, no wmk., thick paper, unused; 2d., emerald-green, no wmk., unused. 1870: 10d., black, strip of three from bottom of sheet, showing marginal wmk. of part of NEW SOUTH WALES; 10d., black, error no wmk., original gum.
- Zanzibar. 1 rupee, grey, error "Zanzidar," unused.
- Shanghai. 1873: 1 c. on 6 c., slate, surcharge in red, unused.
- United States. September, 1861: 5 c., ochre, and 5 c., brown-ochre, both unused and one with full gum: A good selection of old Ceylon stamps, strong in the pence issues.

All Restored

In the afternoon when I returned to take the temperature of 391 Strand, I learnt that the curtain had been rung down. The thief had inspected his haul, and finding that it contained nothing better than crossed cheques and rubbishy old postage stamps, popped the lot into a brown paper parcel and left it on a post-office counter. And so, all's well that ends well!

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Cuba.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* (New York) says:—

"The one cent of the new printing is now in active circulation. The difference in the new print consists in the label bearing the value, which now has the corners cut off; in the first issue the ends were square."

Perf.

1 centavo, green.

Denmark.—In August last, page 105, we chronicled a 4 øre in a new design. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* now announces the receipt of two more values, 1 øre and 15 øre, of this type. This is getting a little confusing, for this figure type and the portrait design seem to be getting mixed up, and the question arises which is to be the permanent type. However, we will recapitulate and set out the issues up to date.



Wmk. Crown. Perf.

- 1 øre, violet.
- 4 " blue.
- 15 " yellow.



Wmk. Crown. Perf.

- 10 øre, scarlet.
- 20 " blue.
- 25 " sepia.
- 50 " violet.
- 100 " yellow-brown.

Jamaica.—Mr. Ewen sends us the ½d. Arms type on multiple CA paper. This is the first of the Arms type on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

½d., green and black.

Malay States.—*Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* is informed that the 5 c., on yellow paper, chronicled on the authority of a contemporary three months ago,

has not been issued, and adds that there are good grounds for believing that it has not yet been printed. We also chronicled this stamp (see p. 121 of the current vol. of *G. S. W.*). The original authority seems to have been Messrs. Th. Champion and Co.

Northern Nigeria.—Mr. Ewen has sent us all the values up to and including the 2s. 6d. stamp on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

- ½d., purple and green.
- 1d. " carmine.
- 2d. " orange.
- 2½d. " blue.
- 5d. " brown.
- 6d. " mauve.
- 1s. green and black.
- 2s. 6d. " blue.

Philippines.—The Washington correspondent of the *Metropolitan Philatelist* (New York) writes:—

"The question whether the new Philippine stamps will be printed in Manila or in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing here in Washington, is still in abeyance. The matter will be definitely settled when word is received from the director of posts in the Philippines. As stated in these notes last spring, it was the purpose of the Insular Bureau to send the plates to Manila and have the stamps printed there, thus doing away with the necessity of shipping hundreds of gummed sheets of stamps across the ocean through a moist atmosphere which appeared to have a consolidating effect on the bunch of stamps. Now Mr. Leech, the public printer at Manila, discovers that the printing of postage stamps requires different machinery than is found in the ordinary printing office, and he is hedging and says that perhaps, after all, the stamps had better be printed in Washington and sent to Manila with waxed paper between each sheet. Nothing has been heard thus far from the die proofs which were sent something over a month ago to Manila."

Trinidad.—We have received the 1s. of the current series on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

1s., black and blue on yellow paper.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Changes in Colonial Stamps

THE remarkable and unexpected changes in the manufacture of our colonial postage stamps have created a sensation that it is idle to ignore. Every reader of the philatelic journals, or frequenter of stamp-collecting circles, recognizes that a new order of things has been created which may be of far-reaching consequence as regards Philately.

For many years the flow of Colonial varieties meandered on peacefully, and the change of the perforations from 12½ to 14, and subsequently that of the watermark from CC and Crown to CA, being spread over a fair number of years, gave collectors a liberal amount of breathing time. The death of the Queen, however, naturally called forth a sweeping change of design which it was fondly hoped would continue without much alteration as long as His Majesty should be spared to reign over us. This peaceful dream, however, has been ruthlessly ended by the unlooked-for apparition of the multiple watermark, and this again is threatened with a short life by the apparent intention of Messrs. De La Rue to adopt the chalk-surfaced paper. We have in some Colonies already, and may well have ere long in all, three, if not four, distinct varieties—all rapidly succeeding each other and doubtless frequently overlapping, i.e. King's Head watermark CA and Crown, King's Head multiple watermark, King's Head (possibly) watermark CA and Crown on chalky paper, King's Head multiple watermark on chalky paper. Such a prospect extended over the vast quantities of stamps issued for Great Britain and the Colonies, may well give us all cause to think both furiously and frequently. For the general collector there is obviously only one course—he must be taught in his albums and catalogues to collect simply Queen's Heads and King's Heads—including only any changes of design or colour—and to ignore everything else.

For the specialist it is however "quite another pair of sleeves." He may well hesitate whether he should leave King's Heads alone, collect them and nothing else, or else, as we fear many are doing, speculate in all the later issues in the hope of getting out at the top story, and perhaps letting others in at the bottom. We are not of the opinion, held apparently by a good many, that all recent issues are bound to be valuable, but there are doubtless some already, and apparently there will be many more, caused by these recent rapid changes, that will appreciate rapidly, and, in some instances, become valuable stamps. It should, however, be borne in mind by the "rushers-in" that these will be the exceptions and not the rule, and that it generally takes a long time before a stamp is—so to say—crystallized into a practical cash convertible value. Stamps, like men, are rarely appreciated at their true value until they have long passed out of existence. The "investment" in recent issues may, therefore, well be one for the benefit of posterity, but the average man far more enjoys the spending of his moneys than their settlement for that of his descendants.

Briefly, however, the values of colonial issues are in the melting pot, and it remains to be seen how far they will resolve themselves into their constituent elements—and how much gold will be found among the dross!

MR. CASTLE in the *London Philatelist*.

Specimen Stamps

AT the desire of a gentleman holding a prominent position in the philatelic world we give publicity to the remarks following, in the hope that the queries therein contained may elicit some response:—

"When a country belonging to the International Postal Union decides on issuing a new postage stamp, a number of copies of the proposed stamp, usually overprinted 'Specimen,' are forwarded to the International Postal Bureau at Berne, to be by that body distributed amongst the other countries in the Union. Presumably these specimen copies are sent out for the purposes of informing the P.O. officials that the new stamp is a *bona fide* Government issue, and for subsequent reference. Three copies of each specimen stamp have been in this manner forwarded to the P.M.G. of the United Kingdom for several years past. Where are they all now? Have they all been carefully conserved in a Post Office Official Collection in London, or does such a collection exist? Or have they been distributed, one copy to England, one to Scotland, and one to Ireland, as would appear to be the intention of the Bureau at Berne in sending them? A complete collection of these specimen stamps, with the dates of arrival, would form an exceedingly interesting and valuable philatelic record. If it does not exist, public property has been lost. The matter is certainly worthy of the attention of our P.M.G."

From the *London Philatelist*.

Interest in Philately

I HAVE no intention of discussing for the ninth time why people should take an interest in Philately. But I have frequently been puzzled, when reading that this country's issues are interesting, or that country's issues are of no philatelic interest, to discern what is exactly meant by the word "interesting," and this is an attempt to analyse the meaning of the word, and to define what constitutes "interest" in stamps as generally accepted.

The question can be treated either deductively or inductively—by finding out (on a priori grounds) why certain stamps should be interesting; or by taking a number of admittedly interesting countries and endeavouring to ascertain what are the qualities in them which arouse interest. I shall confine myself for the most part to the latter method.

But, at the outset, it is not so easy as it would appear to compile a list of countries whose stamps are interesting—a list at any rate that will satisfy every one. There are many, e.g. Great Britain, France, United States of America, Australian Colonies, West Indian Colonies, North American Colonies, which every one, I imagine, will admit to be interesting. But there are others, such as Kashmir and Afghanistan, which, though they are deeply interesting to a few, have no interest for the many. Nevertheless, though these cannot be considered popular or generally interesting, owing probably to the language of their inscriptions, yet I think most people will allow that to those who study them they are of great interest; and defining "interesting" as meaning "capable of inspiring interest," we may admit them in our list of interesting countries. Considering then the list of countries mentioned, I will endeavour to

extract the qualities which may be presumed to give their interest :—

- (1) Beauty of design or workmanship.
- (2) Historical interest, i.e. their capacity for showing the history of a nation (cf. the stamps of the Transvaal, France, etc.). Under this head we might also include the quasi-sentimental interest attached to the first adhesive stamps issued (those of Great Britain).
- (3) Quaintness and oddity of design (including pictorial issues).
- (4) Connexion with some interesting incident, such as Mafekings, the Connell stamp, etc.
- (5) What may be termed philatelic interest, i.e. the opportunity for exercising research, through varieties of design, paper, watermark; perforation, etc.

Very few, if any, stamps combine all these qualities ; a few possess none of them. None of the first four qualities given seem sufficient in themselves to render a country interesting to the philatelist. I am not quite sure whether historical interest would be sufficient. I can think of no stamps of this sort which, as a matter of fact, are not of interest (save perhaps the stamps showing the change of North Borneo to a British Protectorate) ; but as it happens, all of these possess philatelic interest as well, and it is to the latter probably that they owe most of their charm. Beauty is not enough, or Borneo and some of the Seebeck issues should be high up on the list. Nor is ugliness and quaintness sufficient, otherwise some of the later French Colonial issues would attract more attention.

The last quality, the capacity for philatelic research, would then appear to be the essential one for an interesting series of stamps. And yet this, by itself, does not seem to suffice. The issues of Bussahir, and some of the later surcharges of French and Portuguese Colonies, are three cases where there is a large area for philatelic research, but few would admit these issues to be interesting. The term "interesting" as used nowadays by philatelists seems to imply the necessity of philatelic respectability ; the stamps must have been issued to satisfy postal needs. If this be not the case, they are but philatelic outcasts, or admitted only to the fringe of society.

There are many issues which are of doubtful interest philatelically. Surcharges appear to be regarded with disfavour, as a rule, and to be admitted rather under protest. But the treatment of these is not altogether consistent. I have seen some varieties of the surcharges on Indian Native States noted as interesting, and others, to my mind, of very much the same standing, dismissed as being of no interest. The Orange

River Colony V.R.I. surcharges have attracted a good deal of attention, though I am not sure that the interest here was purely philatelic ; it was doubtless necessary to some extent and partly sentimental. Fashion has, I believe, considerable influence in developing the interest of a country's stamps. Not that fashion could make an uninteresting stamp permanently interesting ; but when attention has been called to a country, numbers of students discover that the country is an interesting one, and I have no doubt that many issues now dubbed uninteresting, would be found full of real philatelic interest if they were studied more.

To sum up, for stamps to be interesting they should apparently

- (1) give opportunity for philatelic research ;
- (2) be respectable ;

and if they have other qualities, so much the better for them.

I am inclined to add from my own point of view, that there should be approximate finality about them. The existence of numerous varieties and the search for them is one of the most attractive features of stamp collecting ; but if there was a prospect of their being multiplied indefinitely the interest would quickly wane. It would wane for most people too, if all the gaps were filled up ; there is a certain amount of pleasure in gloating over a well-filled page containing all that can be got together ; but pursuit is more exhilarating than possession, and my ideal country is one that is always nearing completion, but always leaving a little more to acquire. I prefer a living country to a dead one.

J. E. CHAMBERLAIN in the *Philatelic Journal of India*.

Multiples

THAT wretched word "multiple" has taken such a hold in England that it is now used to the entire exclusion of "many," "several," "a lot," "plenty of," and so on. It gets on some people's nerves, and others "have it on the brain."

The following sample will show what I mean.

One of the philatelic societies—I will not specify which—had an excursion, and one of the members described it something like this :—

"We'd *multiple* teas with *multiple* jam,
And *multiple* chicken with *multiple* ham.
And *multiple* sugars and *multiple* milks,
With *multiple* ladies in *multiple* silks,
With *multiple* servants of *multiple* kinds,
With *multiple* drinks for *multiple* minds."

"TANCRED" in the *Philatelic Journal of India*.

APPROVAL SHEETS AND COLLECTIONS.

New Sheets of Stamps for beginners and medium collectors. We have just been arranging our Approval Sheets of Stamps on an entirely new and much simpler plan than formerly. The Stamps are mounted on Sheets, containing an average of 100 Stamps per Sheet. They are all arranged in the order of our New Catalogue. First, Great Britain and the Colonies, then all Foreign Countries. These Sheets contain about 5000 different Stamps, and a Sheet of any particular country will be sent on demand. The Sheets arranged to date are over forty in number, and contain all Great Britain and the Colonies, and all Foreign Countries.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

THE STAMP KING

By G. DE BEAUREGARD AND H. DE GORSSE

Translated from the French by EDITH C. PHILLIPS

CHAPTER XXVII (continued)

Showing how one may always leave something to chance.

WILLIAM KENISS took from his pocket the stamp he had bought a short time before for five cents and handed it to Miss Betty.

"This belongs to you by virtue of our agreement," he said.

"The Brahmapootra stamp!" she cried.

"Yes, Miss Betty. Now confess that you did not expect to get it this evening."

"No, indeed I didn't; but where did you find it?"

"Oh, there is a little story attached to it, which I will tell you after dinner."

"No, no! At once, at once!" cried with touching unanimity all the members of the Philatelic Club, who, hardly able to believe their eyes, had risen to their feet to gain a closer view of the rarity. So the Stamp King was forced to comply, and to recount how he had found the Brahmapootra stamp in New York after having sought it so long and so far. And there was a general feeling of stupefaction when he announced the price he had paid for it—*five cents*.

They now left the table to return to the drawing-room, and Miss Betty took advantage of the occasion to thank her rival, and having expressed her gratitude, she added—

"But all the same, you must deeply regret the fact of having burned Prince Albrandi's receipt."

"Oh, Miss Betty, how can you think of such a thing!"

"Your collection is now no longer unique!"

"What does that matter, so long as you are pleased?"

"Now, don't pretend to be better than you are, but just confess that at the bottom of your heart you are a little bit disappointed; just a little tiny bit?"

"Right away at the very bottom, then!"

"There, you see!" Then with downcast eyes and in the lowest of whispers she added—

"There might perhaps be one way out of the difficulty."

"A way out?"

"Yes, if our two collections were for the future to form—but one?"

William Keniss understood, and seizing Betty's little hand he rapturously pressed it to his lips.

"Ah, what happiness!" he murmured. "You are the most charming of friends, and will make the most delightful of wives!"

"Excuse me, but I haven't given you the right to

woo me yet," she said. "Wait, at least, till our engagement is announced."

"But must I wait long?"

For all reply Miss Betty took her friend William Keniss by the hand, and led him to that part of the room where the philatelists had assembled for coffee.

As they drew near all eyes were turned upon them.

"Mr. William Keniss," she said, "just now conferred upon me, with more gallantry than justice, the title of Stamp Queen. I intend to earn my right



MISS SCOTT STOOD UP

to the title by bestowing upon him my hand, since he himself is the Stamp King."

It would be impossible to express the outburst of enthusiasm provoked by these words. Frantic cheers alternated with frequent bursts of clapping, while their healths were enthusiastically drunk in the punch

which had just begun to circulate. A dozen times William, who still retained in his the hand of his charming *fiancée*, demanded silence, but the cheering only grew louder, and at length became so frantic that John and Victoria, attracted by the uproar, appeared at one of the doors to see what it was all about.

"You are just in time to hear the announcement of my approaching marriage with Mr. Keniss," said Betty to her maid.

"And you of mine with John!" returned Victoria triumphantly. "The wretch has made up his mind to marry me at last."

"Then you are happy?"

"As happy as you are, Miss Betty!"

Betty then signed to them both to advance to the middle of the room, and turning to her friends—

"Allow me," she said, "to present to you another engaged couple, the pair who have been our most valuable helpers, and, I am happy to say, our most faithful friends during the course of our long and perilous journey."

The new-comers had now to respond to the toast of their healths in the punch which the noblest there did not disdain to present to them, after which they retired, a little bashful though immeasurably happy.

"What a splendid opportunity for having the Maharajah's diamond mounted in an engagement ring!" said Mr. Hartlepool.

"You have not the merit of invention there," said William, "for I had already thought of that."

At this moment a growling, deep and prolonged, made itself heard in one corner of the room. It was the fat Buxon, who, true to his character, drew a practical conclusion from all these adventures by grumbling—

"There's only one thing Miss Betty has forgotten, and that's the unfurnished flat in Broadway that she promised the Philatelic Club."

"Unfurnished, but which I intend to have the pleasure of furnishing," said William.

The two young people then handed the doctor two little oblong strips of paper.

"Behold the proof that we have a better memory than you give us credit for!" said Betty.

Buxon cast his eyes on the papers, and with a sudden start of surprise he cried—

"Why, this is truly worthy of the Stamp King and Queen!"

The members of the Philatelic Club all pressed forward to obtain a closer view, and a general clamour arose.

Each cheque was for five hundred thousand dollars!

The cheering was taken up again in so prolonged and so infectious a style that even the enormous hands of Doctor Buxon were brought into requisition, and with tumultuous energy led the applause.

NOTE.—The translator of this story, and it must not be forgotten that in its present form it is a translation, not an original work, feels that it is impossible to make the concluding scene, in which the two great American philatelists decide to unite their collections and their fortunes into one unsevered pair, appear quite natural to the British reader. The publishers cannot but recognize that this is a subject upon which, in their corporate capacity, they are quite incompetent to offer an opinion, but they venture to suggest that in the description by a French author of the *dénouement* of an American courtship some little incongruities are only to be expected.



THE IMPERIAL ALBUM.

Tenth Edition. Size of pages, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The present edition is arranged in *three* volumes. Two causes have acted to bring about this result. First, the ever-increasing number of new issues, for which accommodation must be provided; and secondly, the demand by collectors that space shall be found for varieties of perforation and shade, errors, etc., to conform as closely as possible to the lists given in the Publishers' Catalogue. Vol. I. The Stamps of the British Empire; post-free, 10s. 9d. Vol. II. The Stamps of Europe, and the Colonies and Possessions of European States; post-free, 12s. 9d. Vol. III. Foreign Countries, except Europe and Possessions; post-free, 10s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

London Philatelic Society

President: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.

Hon. Sec.: J. A. Tilleard, 10 Gracechurch Street, E.C.

Meetings: 4 Southampton Row, W. Alternate Fridays at 7.45.

Annual Subscription: Town, £2 2s.; Country, £1 1s.

THE first meeting of the season 1905-6 was held at 2 Cavendish Square, W., on Friday, 13 October, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Present: The Earl of Crawford, A. W. Chambers, E. D. Bacon, Edward J. Nankivell, Rudolph Meyer, C. Stewart-Wilson, C. Neville Biggs, Franz Reichenheim, W. Dorning Beckton, George F. Napier, A. Bagshawe, L. W. Fulcher, F. E. Horton, Rudolph Frentzel, F. W. Schiller, W. Schwabacher, B. D. Knox, Herbert R. Oldfield, E. A. Elliott, C. J. Daun, Douglas Ellis, C. McNaughtan, Thomas Wm. Hall, Jas. Robt. Laing, L. S. Wells.

The chair was taken by the Earl of Crawford, and a letter was read from the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Tilleard, explaining his unavoidable absence in consequence of ill-health. The intimation was received with expressions of regret.

The Honorary Assistant Secretary reported that a copy of the new catalogue had been received from the French Society, and the Honorary Librarian was directed to acknowledge same in the usual way.

A communication was also received from the Secretary intimating the formation of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Philatelic Society, and it was resolved that a copy of the Society's work on India and Ceylon should be sent as a donation towards the library of the Glasgow Society.

The members then proceeded to the election of the following candidates, all of whom, after ballot, were declared duly elected members of the Society, and it was further resolved that with regard to such new members the subscription payable by them should be deemed to date as from 1 January, 1906, and cover the subscription for the year commencing on that date: Mr. Frank Hulme Melland, proposed by the Honorary Secretary, seconded by the Assistant Honorary Secretary; Mr. Richard Dalton, proposed by Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg, seconded by Mr. P. J. Lloyd; Mr. William Reynolds Ricketts, proposed by Mr. E. D. Bacon, seconded by Mr. T. W. Hall; Mr. Charles Lathrop Pack, proposed by Mr. A. H. Stamford, seconded by the Honorary Secretary.

On the motion of the Chairman, it was then unanimously resolved that a telegram should be forwarded to His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the President of the Society, embodying the good wishes of the members in connexion with his forthcoming visit to India, and a telegram to such effect was accordingly prepared and dispatched. The meeting was then adjourned, to enable the members present to inspect the display of stamps prepared for the purpose by the Vice-President of the Society, and the proceedings subsequently terminated.

THE second meeting of the season 1905-6 was held at 4 Southampton Row, on Friday, 27 October, 1905, at 7.45 p.m.

Present: The Earl of Crawford, M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, C. Neville Biggs, C. McNaughtan, L. W. Fulcher, Thos. Wm. Hall, L. L. R. Hausburg, W. Schwabacher, Rudolph Frentzel, Rudolph Meyer, Jas. Robt. Laing, Herbert R. Oldfield, T. Maycock, Franz Reichenheim.

The chair was taken by the Earl of Crawford, and the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October, 1905, were read and signed as correct.

A telegram from His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, acknowledging the telegram which was sent to him at the meeting on the 13th inst., and conveying his thanks therefor, was read.

The members then proceeded to the election of Mr. Hans Martin Hansen, proposed by Mr. E. D. Bacon and seconded by Mr. T. Wickham Jones, who, after ballot, was declared elected a member of the Society.

Mr. F. Reichenheim then read two papers, one on "The Franchise Militaire Stamps of France" and the other on "The Newspaper Stamps of France."

In the first he gave copies of all the laws and decrees and rules and regulations concerning the issue and the use of those stamps, and described all the different issues and varieties.

In the second paper he produced all the official documents, and showed that all the Newspaper stamps, with the exception of the violet ones, represented a much higher value than indicated on their face, and that the full value of the Newspaper stamps, although first issued partly as fiscals only, partly as fiscals and postage stamps together, was allowed for paying postage after the abolishment of the newspaper tax.

The papers were illustrated by Mr. Reichenheim's collection, containing not only blocks or pairs of every issued value in different shades, but also specimens of the extremely rare Newspaper stamps 5 c., imperf., in lilac, blue, and rose, and 5 c., perf., in blue and rose of 1869, and of the $\frac{1}{2}$ in black on 1 c. and 3 c. of 1900, which were all prepared but not issued.

Mr. Reichenheim also handed round his special collection of the stamps of France from 1849-1900.

On the motion of Mr. M. P. Castle, seconded by the Earl of Crawford, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Reichenheim for his interesting papers and display, and after he had made a suitable response the proceedings terminated.

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4 Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C.

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

SATURDAY, 2 December, was a big day for the officials of the Junior Philatelic Society. From three o'clock in the afternoon they were conducting a big rehearsal of the remarkable stamp play entitled "The Lady Forger," which is to be produced at the Bijou Theatre in February. The cast is now completed and will shortly be published.

At 5.30 Mr. E. M. Gilbert Lodge commenced the second auction of the season in Exeter Hall. Nearly two hundred lots were rapidly knocked down to a large number of members. A printed catalogue of the sale was issued, the catalogues being sold in the room at 1d. each, the edition being entirely exhausted before the conclusion of the sale. Catalogues of future sales may be had posted in advance at the inclusive charge of 1s. for the rest of the season. Remittance should be made for them, and all lots for future sales should be sent to Mr. E. M. Gilbert Lodge, Hon. Auctioneer, 23 Spencer Road, Grove Park, W. The next sale will be on 6 January, 1906.

when the sale will be largely devoted to lots of philatelic literature.

At 8 p.m. the President opened the ordinary meeting, and after the Secretary had read the minutes it was announced that the Society's new publication, *The Postage Stamps of the United States*, by Mr. Fred J. Melville, was ready, and copies would be distributed to those who had ordered them. The price of the book is 1s. 6d., or post-free 1s. 7½d.

The following gifts were acknowledged:—To Forgery Collection: from Messrs. L. Savournin and A. Rendle. To Library: twenty-three numbers of *Ewen's Weekly* (Mr. A. H. L. Giles), Gibbons Catalogues, 1902-3-4, and Part III, 1897 (Miss I. Hallows); miscellaneous Literature (Mr. H. H. Harland), and *West End Philatelist*, *Le Postillon*, *Picture Postcard*, and *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, sent regularly by the publishers. To the Permanent Collection of Stamps: gifts from Messrs. Steele, Sefi, Stickland, Mullens, P. D. Harrison, E. J. Homewood, and Mr. Barter.

Mr. Halliday announced that he had mounted the stamps of Norway and of several British Colonies since he issued his last report.

The following new members were next elected: J. E. J. Stoyel, Edgar A. Blockley, A. Beresford Mortimer, Wilfred Bovill, R. H. Corke, Frederick J. Baldwin, Geo. W. Varley, A. H. Flemens, Nelson Zambra, Bernard B. Kirby, Charles Tatham, F. A. Bellamy, M.A., F.R.A.S., H. P. Ling, R. Patrick Thornton, J. Agerup, H. A. Salter, H. A. Calman, R. W. Bradford, William Patman, H. Bee Smith.

The following interesting letter was sent to the President to be read at the meeting. It is a reply to Mr. Percy G. Bishop (life member), who inquired of Messrs. De La Rue as to the truth of the report that lead entered largely into the composition of the new chalk-surfaced paper, which in the course of time would have the effect of turning the stamp black. The reply, which is autographed by Sir Thomas De La Rue, Bart., is of a reassuring nature.

(Copy of letter.)

"110 BUNHILL ROW, E.C., 1 Dec., 1905.

"Percy G. Bishop, Esq., Longleat, Thames Ditton.

"DEAR SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo, we beg to inform you that there is no lead whatever in the preparation of the postage paper, and that therefore there is no danger of the paper going black.

Yours faithfully,

"THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO., LTD.

"(Signed) THOS. DE LA RUE, *Director*."

Mr. Bishop was formally thanked by the meeting for this interesting communication.

Mr. Bertram Poole, Vice-President, was then called upon to give his display of the stamps of Sudan. On these he chatted most interestingly as the sheets of stamps were being handed round. The collection was particularly strong in large blocks of the various settings of the surcharges, and a number of the varieties of the perforated and overprinted Officials were included.

Mr. Halliday proposed and Mr. C. J. Patman seconded the cordial vote of thanks to the Vice-President for the entertaining study and display of the stamps of Sudan. It was carried by acclamation.

At the next meeting, on Saturday, 16 December, Mr. Melville will give a paper on Hayti for beginners, and by special request will give a display of part of his collection of the country. Mr. W. E. Imeson will also contribute a humorous paper, entitled "On Nothing in Particular—Especially Stamps."

The next Competitive Display will be of Philatelic Literature and Accessories, on Saturday, 6 January. All entries for and communications respecting the contest should be addressed to Mr. R. Shepherd, 21 Hubert Grove, Stockwell, S.W.

Orders for the Society's new book on U.S. stamps should be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. H. F. Johnson, 4 Portland Place North, Clapham Road, S.W.

CORRESPONDENCE

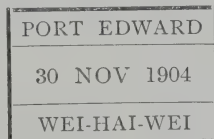
Hong Kong Cancellations

DEAR SIR,—I have followed with much interest the series of articles by Mr. C. B. Howes on the "Cancellations on Hong Kong Postage Stamps," which have lately appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*.

At the end of this week's article Mr. Howes states that there is one agency which he cannot treat of, namely, on Liu King Island in the bay of Wei-hai-wei.

Some time ago, in looking through a few King's Head stamps of Hong Kong, I noticed a postmark which interested me, and I therefore secured a couple of specimens. Unfortunately, the postmark is not quite complete on either stamp, and it is only by

piecing the two stamps together I get the whole postmark, of which I send a tracing.



I cannot help thinking this is the cancellation Mr. Howes refers to. It is struck in violet ink on the stamps I have. Yours faithfully,

R. HALLIDAY.

SLOUGH, 30 Nov., 1905.

THE KING'S OWN POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

This Album has been specially designed for those collectors who either commence a collection with the Postage Stamps of King Edward VII, or who collect these stamps as a supplement to a General Collection. The King's Own Album contains 100 pages of heavy white plate paper outlined with a neat border of neutral grey, with quadrillé background inside the grey border, and name space at the top of each page. Exact size of leaves from the outer edge, 7½×9½; available for mounting stamps, 6½×8½. The title-page is printed in the Royal Colours, with the King's Cypher Monogram and Crown. Strongly bound in cloth, bevelled boards, with the Official Cypher Monogram and Crown in gold on cover. Post-free, 8s.; abroad, 8s. 9d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

H. M. C. (Darlington).—Gibbons Catalogue is in two parts or vols. Part I lists all the stamps of the British Empire, and Part II deals with foreign countries. The Catalogue is compiled from the specialist's point of view, and is much too advanced for you as a beginner. You had better wait for the simpler Catalogue which Gibbons is preparing for beginners. This will be ready in a few weeks, will be in one vol. at a low price, and will be restricted to the simplest possible varieties, omitting Unpaid, Postage Due, Official, and other unnecessary items.

T. G. (Plymouth).—Small countries, i.e. countries with only a few issues, are not necessarily the best for beginners. For instance, Lagos has a small and straightforward series of issues, but more than half the sets are very expensive, and none are cheap. For manageable countries for a limited amount of pocket money you must take European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Bavaria, etc., and take used only. You will get, then, plenty for your pence, and later on, when you have more money to spare, you can dip into British Colonies. Meanwhile, of British you might take up Cayman Islands and Leeward Islands up to 1s. values, unused.

B. M. J. (Weybridge).—Mafekings are down, as compared with the prices of 1902, because they have not "taken on" as it was thought they would have done. They are, in fact, rather unpopular, and are suffering a reaction from too much booming. The Indian stamps postmarked "Coronation Durbar" have no added philatelic value. They are simply souvenirs. Gibbons does not list varieties of cancellations of red and black. Therefore the value of an English penny black with red cancellation would depend upon the seller and its condition. As there are many King's Head £1, single CA, and you do not mention the country, we cannot answer your fourth question.

F. F. S. (St. Petersburg).—Certainly it would be better for you to limit your collecting to a few countries if you have not an over-large pocket allowance. See reply above to "T. G." We do not quite understand what you mean when you say, "I would like to have a field as much to myself as possible." You can only have countries to yourself that are unpopular because they are full of rubbish, like North Borneo. As you are resident in Russia, why not take up Russian stamps? Our publishers take unused stamps for small amounts.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I, all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

DECEMBER, 1905

16. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse; Paper—"Hayti for Beginners"; Fred J. Melville. Humorous Paper—"On Nothing in Particular—Especially Stamps"; W. E. Imeson. Display—African Colonies III: Transvaal from 1878; Natal from 1859; and Orange River Colony.
18. Herts Philatelic Society: Display with Notes—Liberia, H. L. Hayman, Liverpool. Discussion—Collecting as an Investment, opened by W. C. Taylor. Display—United States.
19. Leeds Philatelic Society: Paper by Mr. E. Egly—"The Universal Postal Union: Its History and Progress."
20. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Display—Rare Stamps; F. W. Lake. Ten-minute Papers—Selected. General Sale and Exchange.
29. Dundee and District Philatelic Society: Display—Africa, Part II, with Notes; J. E. Heginbottom, B.A.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

EDITED BY EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

No. 26
Whole No. 51

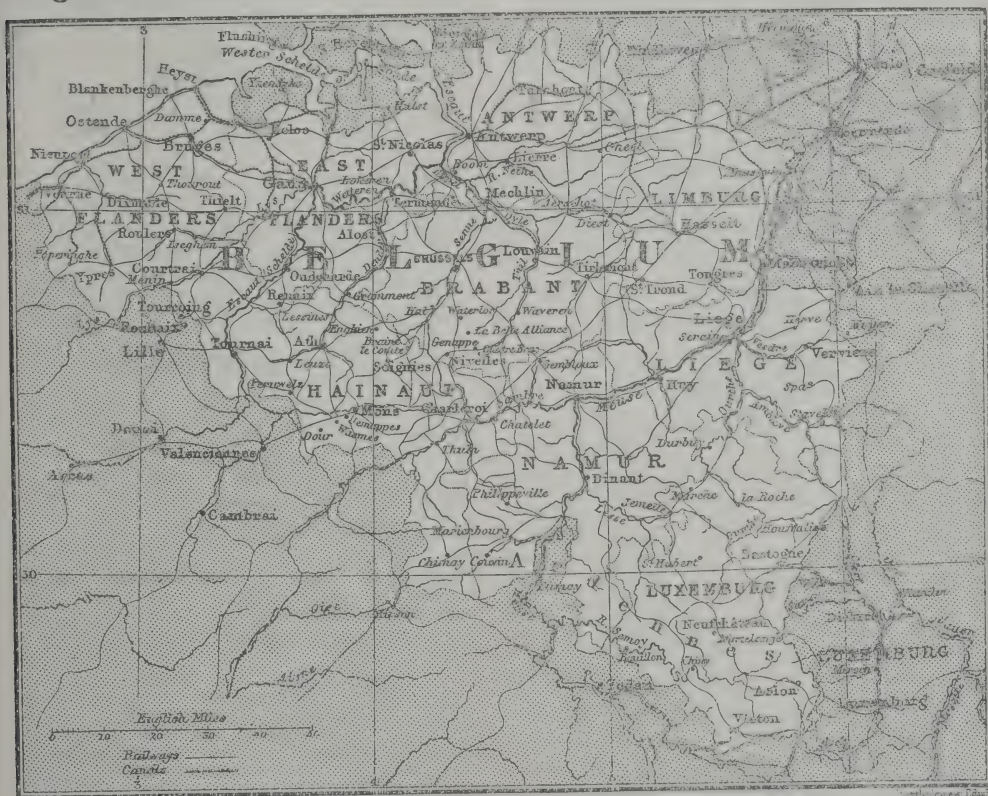
23 DECEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Belgium



AS a country Belgium has been the shuttlecock of European politics for many centuries, and it has been the battleground of many great European wars. At one time it formed part of the Duchy of Burgundy, then it passed to the House of Hapsburg. As the Spanish Nether-

lands, it did not unite with the northern provinces in the revolt of the 16th century. It passed to Austria as the Austrian Netherlands in 1713; it was conquered by France in 1794 and annexed to France. It was united with the Netherlands in a kingdom in 1815, but the partnership did

not work well, and Belgium revolted against Holland in 1830, but England and France interfered, separated the combatants, and apportioned territory to each. As a constitutional monarchy it dates from 1831. Its political arrangements are unique. Manhood suffrage prevails, plural votes, compulsory voting, and proportional representation. All citizens over twenty-five have a vote, then there is another vote for property qualification, and a third vote for educational qualification. There is no State religion, but the population is mostly of the Roman Catholic faith. It is the most thickly populated country of Europe, and is full of thriving industries. The total area is only 11,373 square miles, and the population 6,669,732. It has twenty-five towns each with a population of over 20,000 inhabitants; Brussels, the capital, has a population of 561,766; Antwerp 285,600; Liège 173,706; and Ghent 160,949.

Its Philatelic History

The first postage stamp was issued in 1849, and bore the portrait of Leopold I, the first and reigning King of the Belgians. The subsequent issues of 1850 and 1865 had a portrait of the same monarch. Leopold I died in 1865, and his son, the present King, succeeded him as Leopold II, but his portrait was not placed on the postage stamps until 1869; since then the profile of Leopold II has been appearing on every series issued.

1849. Two values. Design, portrait of Leopold I, the reigning sovereign, and first King of the Belgians. The King is shown in uniform with three-quarter face, and the stamps have very much the appearance of an old painting. The paper was watermarked with a peculiar monogram consisting of an interlacing of the letters "L L." The dies were engraved by M. Jacques Wiener, a Belgian engraver, and the stamps were printed in Brussels. They were issued imperforate.



| | <i>Wmk. "LL." Imperf.</i> | Unused. | | Used. | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 10 c., brown | . | 50 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| 20 c., blue | . | 45 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

1850. Three values. Design, head of Leopold I, similar to the first issue, but enclosed in an oval. Paper watermarked as before. Imperforate.



| | <i>Wmk. "LL." Imperforate.</i> | Unused. | | Used. | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 10 c., brown | . | — | — | 1 | 6 |
| 20 c., blue | . | — | — | 1 | 6 |
| 40 c., carmine | . | £6 | — | 2 | 0 |

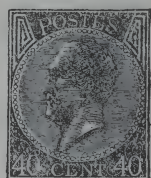
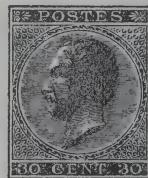
1861. Four values. Same design, printed on unwatermarked paper. A 1c. value was added for the payment of the postage of printed matter and newspapers.

| | <i>No wmk. Imperf.</i> | Unused. | | Used. | |
|----------------|------------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 c., green | . | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| 10 c., brown | . | 6 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 20 c., blue | . | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 40 c., carmine | . | 20 | 0 | 0 | 9 |

1863. The same four values and the same design, but perforated.

| | <i>No wmk. Perf.</i> | Unused. | | Used. | |
|----------------|----------------------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| 1 c., green | . | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 10 c., brown | . | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 20 c., blue | . | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 |
| 40 c., carmine | . | 8 | 0 | 0 | 5 |

1865. Five values. New profile portrait of Leopold I, designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., London, but printed in Belgium. The portrait was the same for all values, but the framework varied slightly in each value.





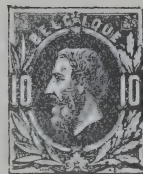
| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|----------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 c., grey | . | . | 3 6 | 0 4 |
| 20 c., blue | . | . | 3 0 | 0 2 |
| 30 c., brown | . | . | 10 0 | 0 4 |
| 40 c., carmine | . | . | 10 0 | 0 6 |
| 1 fr., lilac | . | . | 8 0 | 4 0 |

1866. Three low values. Design, the Arms of Belgium, designed, engraved, and printed in Belgium. Perforated.



| | No wmk. | Perf. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|-------------|---------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 c., grey | . | . | 1 0 | 0 4 |
| 2 c., blue | . | . | 2 6 | 4 0 |
| 5 c., brown | . | . | 3 0 | 2 6 |

1869-81. Leopold II, the present occupant of the throne of Belgium, succeeded his father, Leopold I, on his death in 1865, but it was not until 1869 that the old King's portrait on the postage stamps was superseded by that of his successor. The new series consisted of twelve values. These stamps, according to Mr. Westoby, were designed by Mr. H. Hendrickx, a Belgian artist, and engraved by M. A. Doms, and their initials appear in microscopical letters on the lower edge of the stamps. The profile is turned to the left, and gives us a portrait of Leopold II at the time of his accession. The portrait is the same throughout the series, but the framework varies on each stamp. The low values, 1 c. to 8 c., are of a separate design with large numeral of value on a central oval disk. Specialists find the series rich in shades, especially the 10c., 20c., and 40c. This series is split up in different catalogues, but I have thrown the lot together, as the stamps make a complete series, though issued at various times from 1869 to 1881. Their separation into disjointed and incomplete lots only creates confusion and spoils the album effect of grouping the series in its complete form.



| | Perforated. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 c., green | . | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., blue | . | 0 2 | 0 4 |
| 5 c., orange | . | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 8 c., lilac | . | 2 0 | 1 0 |
| 10 c., green | . | 0 9 | 0 1 |
| 20 c., blue | . | 2 0 | 0 1 |
| 25 c., olive | . | 2 6 | 0 1 |
| 30 c., buff | . | 2 6 | 0 2 |
| 40 c., carmine | . | 4 0 | 0 4 |
| 50 c., slate | . | 5 0 | 0 2 |
| 1 fr., violet | . | 2 6 | 0 4 |
| 5 fr., brown | . | 16 0 | 20 0 |

1883. Four values. Design, redrawn portrait of King, profile to left in new framework, designed and engraved by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. Mr. Westoby says "the profile of the King on these stamps was such a caricature that it was evident they would prove a failure," and it must be confessed that Messrs. De La Rue and Co.'s forte is not stamp portraiture. I do not know of a single really

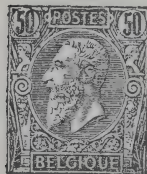
successful portrait on stamps designed by them.



Perforated.

| | Unusd. | Used. |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 10 c., carmine | 0 5 | 0 1 |
| 20 c., grey | 0 9 | 0 1 |
| 25 c., blue | 1 6 | 0 5 |
| 50 c., violet | 3 0 | 0 8 |

1884-91. Ten values. Design, redrawn head of King in profile to left, designed and engraved by M. Mouchon, the designer of the French stamps. For the low values, 1 c. to 5 c., the design of the 1869-81 series was retained. Several of the values were printed on paper with a coloured ground or facing.



Perforated.

| | Unusd. | Used. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., grey | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., brown | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., green | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 10 c., carmine on blue | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 20 c., olive-green | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 25 c., blue on rose | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 35 c., chocolate | 1 0 | 0 2 |
| 50 c., ochre | 1 0 | 0 1 |
| 1 fr., brown on green | 3 0 | 0 3 |
| 2 fr., lilac on pale lilac | 3 0 | 0 4 |

1893-8. Ten values. Design, the Arms of Belgium for the low values, 1 c. to 5 c., and M. Mouchon's portrait of the King in a circle for the higher values. The inscriptions were in French and in Flemish on each stamp. This series is known as the Sunday delivery stamps. At the foot of each stamp was a detachable tablet inscribed, in both French and Flemish, "Not to deliver on the Sunday." The idea was to lighten the labours of the Post Office by giving the senders of letters the option of franking them with the tablet stamps, and thus expressing their desire not to have their letters delivered on the Sunday. If they did not wish to notify such a desire they had only to remove the detachable tablet. Young collectors are sometimes puzzled over these stamps as to whether they should include copies from which the Sunday tablet has been removed. The stamps are complete either way, but preferably so with the tablet intact. *Perforated.*



Perforated.

| | Unusd. | Used. |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 1 c., grey | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., yellow | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 2 c., brown | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 5 c., green | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 10 c., red-brown | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 20 c., olive-green | 0 3 | 0 1 |
| 25 c., ultramarine | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 35 c., brown | 0 5 | 0 1 |
| 50 c., bistre | 0 7 | 0 2 |
| 1 fr., carmine on green | 1 9 | 0 2 |
| 2 fr., mauve | 4 0 | 0 4 |

1894-6. Two lots of labels to advertise respectively exhibitions at Antwerp and Brussels were issued in these years.

They are not worth including in a serious collection of postage stamps.

1900. Three values. Designs of 1893-8 surcharged, but colours altered; the 10 c. from brown to carmine, the 1 fr. from carmine on green to orange, and the 2 fr. from mauve to lilac.

| | Perforated. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 c., carmine | | 0 2 | 0 1 |
| 1 fr., orange | | 1 2 | 0 2 |
| 2 fr., lilac | | 2 4 | 0 5 |

1905. Seven values. Design, new up-to-date portrait in uniform, profile to left



NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE
NI ET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG



NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE
NI ET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG



NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE
NI ET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG

in circle of solid colour, with Sunday label attached at foot as before. The colouring of this series is richer and more effective than that of any other stamps of Belgium. The inscriptions, as before, are given in both French and Flemish.

| | Perforated. | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 c., rose-red | | 0 2 | — |
| 20 c., olive-green | | 0 3 | — |
| 25 c., blue | | 0 4 | — |
| 35 c., brown-lilac | | 0 5 | — |
| 50 c., grey | | 0 7 | — |
| 1 fr., orange | | 1 2 | — |
| 2 fr., mauve | | 2 4 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

STAMPS TO LOOK FOR

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 402)

New Zealand

HERE, again, is a country which makes large demands on one's purse and mental energy. The issues fall roughly under two heads, viz. those before 1874 and those after. Of the former, most of them cost a fair amount. The latter have rare stamps here and there, but a fair collection of them is well within the reach of the majority of collectors. The Art Series of 1898 has already become a thing of value as well as beauty, and prices are still on the increase.

Niger Coast Protectorate

The three series of 1893, 1894, and 1897 are special favourites of mine. The stamps had but a short life, and several of them will undoubtedly become rare in a few years. Here is one example of increase. Five years ago I bought the 1s., black, unused (1897-1901 issue), in the



1894.

Strand for 1s. 3d. The catalogue price to-day is 3s. 6d.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia has a great rarity in the 1s., violet, 1851-3. Unused, it has been sold for £40, while £15 is an average price for a used copy. The 1d., red-brown, and 6d., green, are also good.



Orange River Colony—Queensland

The Orange River Colony and Queensland are lands wisely left to the specialist with plenty of capital. Queensland issues of the last twenty years may easily be picked up, but scores of the earlier stamps are rare.

Straits Settlements

Of the Indian stamps, watermark Elephant's Head, and surcharged with crown and value, the 6 cents in violet on 2 annas, yellow, 12 c. in red on 4 a., green, are rare. The 2 c., brown, and 4 c., rose, of 1883, watermark Crown CA, are worth seeking. The former, unused, has gone up in price from 10s. to 20s. since 1904.

Argentine Republic

Great Britain and her Colonies have so far claimed all our attention. It is time we had a look at a few of the rarities which foreign countries have issued. In the Argentine Republic, Buenos Ayres presents a rare lot of "Locals." Of these, the 4 pesos, red, has brought £22. 5s. and the 5 pesos, orange, has turned the scale at £33.



1858.

(To be continued.)

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

THE LATEST NEWS

AS every stamp collector knows, the federation of the various colonies of the Australian continent into one Commonwealth means sooner or later the federation of the postal services and the ultimate production of a series of postage stamps for common use throughout the Commonwealth. Five years from the establishment of the Commonwealth was set down as the limit of use of separate stamps for the separate States, and that limit will be reached with the end of this year.

The Commonwealth was established on 1 January, 1901, and included the five colonies of Australia and Tasmania, viz. :—

Western Australia.
South Australia.
Victoria.
New South Wales.
Queensland.
Tasmania.

But up to the eleventh hour the authorities do not seem to have been able to make up their minds what to do in this matter of the production of a uniform series of postage stamps.

A Melbourne correspondent kindly sends us cuttings from the *Melbourne Argus* giving the latest news and views on the question. In an editorial in its issue of 3 November, 1905, the *Argus* says :—

"It is the intention of the postal department to have all postage stamps printed in Adelaide at a very early date. At present the cost of printing at the Adelaide Post Office is 4d. per 1000. In other states the cost varies, and in Queensland it is as high as 10d. per 1000. An estimate by the specialist employed at the Adelaide Post Office shows that stamps can be printed there for 2½d. per 1000 if suitable machinery be obtained. It has been decided to procure the necessary machines, which will cost about £5600,

and it is expected that a very large saving will be effected. A uniform Commonwealth issue of stamps is not possible, in the opinion of Mr. Scott, Secretary to the Central Administration, until the period of the book-keeping clauses of the constitution has expired. It has been decided that the stamps shall bear the King's head. During the debate on the postal estimates some members of the House of Representatives expressed the opinion that the designs should be illustrative of Australian resources, but the King's head has been finally decided upon, and Mr. Scott points out that any addition to this would result in a cramped design unless large stamps (such as those of Tasmania) were issued. This is not intended, as the production of stamps is very expensive. The Commonwealth stamps will bear a uniform watermark."

Here is the report of the debate in the Federal House of Representatives, also from the pages of the *Argus* :—

"SYDNEY, Tuesday (7 Nov., 1905).—When the Legislative Assembly met to-day Mr. W. Anderson moved the adjournment of the House to call attention to 'the serious and unconstitutional action' of the Postmaster-General in arranging to have all the stamps printed in Adelaide. The grave aspect of the matter, in his opinion, was that before the federal capital was established in New South Wales the Federal Government was centralizing another large public department which, if it was to be a separate department, should be in the federal capital site when selected. (Hear, hear.) It seemed like another attempt to bring a very strong and forceful strain upon each state, according as it viewed the Federal Parliament. (Hear, hear.) In New South Wales they had a plant costing £6000 to install as well as a competent staff of men turning out the finest specimens of work. It was said that the Federal Government could now turn out stamps at 2½d. per thousand, instead of 10d. per thousand, as heretofore. That would be impossible. The gentleman who supplied that estimate (the Deputy Postmaster-General of South Australia) had, it was well known, been very much out in other estimates. He was not a practical man. In England, where labour was 30 per cent. less costly than in Australia, stamps were supplied

to India at a cost of 60 per cent. greater than the estimate of 2½d. What would the proposal mean to this state? If this proposal of the Federal Government was carried out, a lot of machinery would be thrown on the hands of the states, there would be less return to the states of revenue, and administration would be more costly. It was time this House began to voice its opinions with reference to the administrative acts which were tightening the tension. He agreed with General French that New South Wales was a milking cow drawn on for the benefit of the other states.

"Mr. Carruthers quite concurred with the hon. member that public attention should be drawn to the matter. On 20 January, 1905, he forwarded the report drawn up by the Government printer protesting against the proposed action, and pointing out that any extra printing of postage stamps, etc., could be carried out at the Sydney Government Printing Office, with an additional expenditure of £2000. In view of that report the proposal was rather staggering. The Federal Government had six state printing offices which it could draw upon. Instead there was a multiplication of offices; the states had to pay for it, and unfortunately the bulk of taxation had to be paid by New South Wales. They had the most up-to-date plant in Australia. South Australia had not a quarter of the population of this state. They did not have the same experience there, and with a little expenditure the printing office here would rank with the best in the world. The protest from the various states had been ignored, and it was a question whether the time had not arrived when they should stop discussing these injustices and let the Federal Government know that they had rights and that they intended to assert them.

"Mr. Law said the Federal Parliament seemed to try to get at New South Wales every time. It was just as well to know that this state was nearly half of the Commonwealth. They had more population than several of the other states put together.

"Mr. Wood said the proposal was one of the greatest excesses in administration the Federal Government had been guilty of.

"Mr. Carruthers: They propose to print the electoral rolls in Melbourne.

"Mr. Jessep: Well, it was time this state showed the red flag. Now was the opportunity for the Premier to rise to his true position. (Hear, hear.)

"Mr. Norton: No Premier ever had such an opportunity of getting all the people behind him. (Hear, hear.)

"Mr. Hollis could see that nothing good could result from the motion. It was said the Federal Government's action was unconstitutional. In what way? Why, the Federal Government could print their stamps in Timbuctoo if they liked. They in this state could protest, but they could not call it unconstitutional. That cry was all bunkum. It was not a question

affecting the labour of the state, it was a question affecting the state as a whole. They had entered into a bargain. Now they wanted to get out of it. If the Premier could get them out of federation, then he would follow him. If the supporters of the motion were in earnest, would they adjourn the House on it as a protest?

"Mr. Cohen reminded the previous speaker that the motion was not aimed at federation. Those responsible for these actions by the Federal Government were the enemies of federation. It was not the fault of federation, it was the result of the action of those in power."

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

The Foolish Virgins Sent Home

THE Crown Agents for the Colonies have been trying to tempt stamp dealers in this country to buy up the old remainder stock of a lot of unnecessary stamps made for sale to collectors on behalf of the revenue of the Virgin Islands. The legitimate postage stamps of the Virgin Islands are those common to all the Leeward Islands, and labelled and known amongst stamp collectors as Leeward Islands. But the Virgin Islands Government discovered, after the issue of the Leeward Islands stamps, that they were not milking stamp collectors on their own separate account as before. Hence they had prepared and issued a separate set for that purpose, and this supplementary set, it was announced, could be used side by side with the Leewards. Stamp collectors saw through the little game, and the result is a nice lot of unsold stock. It has been offered to stamp dealers, but as the fish do not rise to the bait, the stamps are to be returned to the colony.

The Commonwealth Watermark

WE do not seem to have done yet with the Commonwealth watermark. We have already had one type abandoned, and a new drawing of an improved crown, and now the *Australian Philatelist* tells us that even this is likely to be changed,

A curious error has been discovered in connexion with the new Crown and A paper brought into use in the Melbourne Printing Office, viz. that the Crown is not in accordance with the Circular received from the Imperial Authorities and published in the *Commonwealth Gazette*, 29th August, 1901. No. 44. The

Circular contained the following: "I have also to inform you, that His Majesty has expressed his desire that the 'Tudor' (Imperial) Crown may be substituted for any other pattern now in use as new articles become necessary." The one adopted on the Melbourne paper is known as the Royal Crown.

King's Portrait for Australians

THE Commonwealth authorities seem to have decided to place the King's Head upon the uniform series that is some day to supersede the separate stamps of the various States. Alas! if the portraiture is on a par with past Australian efforts, His Majesty is to be pitied for the fate that awaits him. To be guyed by an Australian artist (?) seems to be one of the penalties that attach to the wearer of the British Crown.

Stamp Society Meetings

THEY are trying to work up a little more interest in their stamp meetings in America. Here is the latest indication in that direction, taken from a recent report of the Collectors' Club, of which our dear old friend and champion motorist, Mr. J. N. Luff, is the active president:—

It was moved, seconded, and carried that a General Stamp Meeting for the exhibition, discussion, sale, and exchange of stamps be held in the club rooms on the fourth Saturday evening of each month, which members and their friends are cordially invited to attend, and are requested to bring their collections and duplicates.

Some day our societies will see the necessity of something of this sort. This season's programme of the premier society is worse than an hour's sermon by the Rev. Dr. Dryasdust.

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Denmark.—Some further additions to what we term the figure type, just received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., strengthen the suspicion that after all there may be some truth in the report which was circulated some months since that the portrait design did not give satisfaction, and would be withdrawn, for we have recently had several new stamps in the subsequent figure design. We have already chronicled the 1 øre, 4 øre, and 15 øre in this figure type, and we have now received the 2 øre in the same design. We find that the colours of the 1 øre and 15 øre, which we took from *Exen's Weekly Stamp News*, were reversed by our contemporary. With the stamps before us, we are now enabled to revise the list. The figure design is quaint, but not unpleasing, and it will not surprise us to learn that it is intended to supersede the portrait type.



Wmk. Crown. A. Perf.

- 1 øre, yellow.
- 2 „ deep carmine.
- 4 „ blue.
- 15 „ mauve.

New South Wales.—The *Australian Philatelist* says that the following values have been issued on Crown A paper: $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.; and adds the further information that the remaining values will be put on sale as the old stocks run out.



Wmk. Crown A. Perf.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
- 1d., carmine.
- 2d., blue.
- 4d., brown.
- 6d., orange.
- 1s., brown.

Victoria.—We have already chronicled the 1d. and 2d. (page 358) on the new paper with the Commonwealth watermark of Crown A, and the *Australian Philatelist* announces the issue of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 6d. on the new paper.



Wmk. Crown A. Perf.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green.
- 1d., rose.
- 2d., violet.
- 6d., green.

Western Australia.—The *Australian Philatelist* has received the 1d. on Crown A paper.



Wmk. Crown A. Perf.

- 1d., rose.

A FINE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No. 68, 1500 varieties. Each specimen is in perfect condition, and the 1500 different Stamps form a splendid start for any one. A large number of really rare and valuable stamps are contained in this collection; but it is impossible to enumerate them, as we are constantly adding New Issues and Older Stamps when purchased. Satisfaction is guaranteed. £1 15s., post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

MISCELLANEOUS

Postal Rates between Great Britain and Canada

A MEETING was held at Westminster Palace Hotel on Tuesday evening (12 December, 1905), under the auspices of the Victoria League, to discuss the question of obtaining reduced postal rates for British magazines and newspapers between Great Britain and Canada. Lord Duncannon presided, and those present included Mr. Colmer, C.M.G., Mr. Préfontaine, Mr. Leo Maxse, Mr. J. G. Talbot, M.P., Mr. Pitt Kennedy, Sir Edward Ward, Lady Carrington, Mrs. Herbert Chamberlain, and the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton.

The Duke of Argyll, in a letter of regret for inability to attend, said: "The matter to be discussed is most important, and I am most anxious that it be taken into serious consideration by whatever Government may be in office during the coming year. It is much to be deplored that British serial literature is placed at so great a disadvantage in Canada. It should be possible for a Canadian to obtain all daily literature or magazines as cheaply from London as from New York."

The Chairman said he hoped the views of the Victoria League on this matter of a reduction of postal rates on magazines and newspapers between this country and Canada, when conveyed to the Government, would find new ground to rest in, and that the new Postmaster-General would be able to receive their views before he had been worried and besieged by the thousand and one objects that other people had in view. The first argument that was advanced against them was that of revenue. There probably would be loss of revenue; but he hoped that commercial arguments would have their place. He could conceive that in this matter what was lost in quality would be gained in quantity. On sentimental grounds alone there was much to be said in favour of a reduction of the rates. The transmission at a low rate of periodicals and newspapers from this country to Canada would enable the Canadian people to keep in closer touch with the objects, feelings, and sentiments of those at home.

Mr. Colmer moved a resolution expressing sympathy with the desire for a mutual reduction of the existing postal rates between Great Britain and the Dominion, and declaring that such reduction, if practicable, would be highly desirable in the best interests of the empire. He said the subject was not a new one, but it had never received quite the consideration it deserved. If its bearing upon the commercial and political relations of the mother country and the colony had been better understood the glaring evil of high postal rates could not have been perpetuated. It was a common subject of comment on the part of visitors to Canada, and even on the part of Canadians themselves, that one rarely saw in the Dominion English magazines and periodicals or English newspapers. But while English periodicals were conspicuous by their absence, American publications of all kinds were sold in thousands throughout Canada. This was due to the disparity which existed between the British and American postal rates. British publications simply could not compete with American publications there. The disparity in rates gave Americans not only preferential treatment, but a practical monopoly of the Canadian market as far as literature was concerned. To send a magazine to Canada from this country cost 4d., while an American

magazine of the same weight could be sent from any part of the United States for a halfpenny. Canadians appreciated the Imperial benefits that would be derived from the proper circulation of British literature in the Dominion, and they were convinced, from their experience in the past, that the lowering of postal rates as a general rule did not lead to a falling off, but rather to an increase in revenue. If a readjustment of rates were effected it was questionable whether the change would lead to a loss of any of the considerable profits which the Post Office was now able to show as the result of its work. The tendency would be to create a profitable business, and he thought the Post Office revenue would be benefited.

Dr. Parkin, C.M.G., in seconding, said it was to him absolutely astonishing, considering that the cheapening of postal rates had been one of the most profitable things ever done in this country, that the English mind did not grasp the present position. *The Times*, and many other great newspapers now rapidly following in its wake, contained news of importance from every corner of the world, and such papers should be available to Canadians. Why should they not be allowed to obtain them just as freely as the people of this country?

Mr. Préfontaine, a member of the Canadian Government, spoke in support of the motion. He hoped that the work which had been begun by the league would be continued, and that they would be able to obtain from the new Government that which they asked, and that which was only reasonable, just, and fair, and was in the interests of the Empire.

The motion was adopted.

The Chairman, in replying to a vote of thanks, announced that Mr. Rudolphe Lemieux, K.C., the Solicitor-General for Canada, would have been present but for the fact that he was fog-bound in the Channel.

The Times.

Picture Post Cards for Places Abroad

WE have received the following from the General Post Office, which confirms and supplements the brief official announcement published in *The Times* of 9 December: The Postmaster-General has made arrangements for relaxing the regulations by which picture post cards sent to places abroad have been debarred from bearing a communication on the left-hand half of the address side. All such post cards can, therefore, so far as the British Post Office is concerned, now pass at the post card rate, provided that they are otherwise in conformity with the regulations. This concession has been expressly accepted by the Post Offices of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, and Tunis. It is not, however, universally accepted; and no guarantee can at present be given that such cards will be allowed to pass at the post card rate in countries other than those mentioned. Positive information has been received that cards of the kind described will not be allowed to pass as post cards in Japan, Spain, or the United States; and any such cards sent to or from those countries will be liable as heretofore to taxation as insufficiently paid letters, unless prepaid at the letter rate. No such contingency arises in regard to cards for the British Colonies and Possessions to which the penny rate of postage applies for both letters and post cards.

The Times.

A VERY HANDSOME PRESENT.

Packet No. 69, 2000 varieties. A grand packet, every stamp being different and genuine, and thus forming a choice collection in itself. £3, post-free and registered.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our Scandinavian Letter

Europeans under a Cloud

December, 1905.

AT the present moment there seems to be very little interest prevailing amongst the stamp collectors of Great Britain for European stamps. "King's Heads" are the rage of to-day. But old Europe is sure to come to the fore again, and then it may prove a good investment to have as few "blanks" as possible of these stamps in your album.

The Stamps of Sweden: a History

As regards Sweden, the interest for the stamps of this particular country may be roused very soon on account of the work just published on *The Stamps of Sweden, 1855-1905*, by the Philatelic Society of Sweden (Sveriges Filatelist Förening). The Swedish stamp celebrates its fifty years jubilee this year, and the above-mentioned work is a detailed story, not only of the Swedish stamps, but also of the Post Office of Sweden. The book is full of good illustrations and interesting diagrams. It may be had from Sveriges Filatelist Förening, 24A Greteuregatan, Stockholm, Sweden, for 12s. 6d., post-free.

Forgeries of Old Swedish Stamps

A well-known Swedish stamp dealer publishes a statement in the November issue of *Svensk Filatelistisk Tidskrift* to the effect that he has discovered forgeries of old Swedish stamps "en masse." The stamps were sent from a Continental dealer for examination and they turned out to be very clever forgeries. All are unused and of 1858 issue, viz. 5, 9, 12, 24, 30, and 50 öre (Arms of Sweden), and 1856 Local, black, and 1862 Local, brown. Even an expert will have some

difficulty in distinguishing these forgeries from genuine stamps. The difference lies chiefly in the paper and perforation. A warning has been sent to all the leading stamp journals of the world, so look out for detailed information, which will soon appear in English journals.

Proposed New Value for Sweden

There is some talk of a new value, viz. 35 öre, for Sweden, as a consequence of the reduced postage on parcel post. We may consequently expect a new stamp, presumably of the King Oscar's portrait type, in the near future.

The Stamps of Norway

Of all the European countries, I think there is none whose stamps are so dull-looking (if I may use such an expression) as those of Norway. Since 1867 the type has practically not been altered. But we shall soon have a new issue of Norwegians.

After the separation from Sweden the Norwegian Government sent out invitations to a competition for a new design. The committee which will decide in this matter comprises a Post Office official, an artist, and a philatelic expert; so if the new Norway will not please everybody, surely the Norwegian Government will not be to blame. If I may venture a guess as to the new design, I should say King Haakon's features will be seen on the stamps. What is more natural than that a country, which has not had a king of its own for several hundred years, should celebrate the event by issuing stamps with the King's portrait? The new stamps will probably be issued in about six months.

LOUIS ZETTERSTEN.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Junior Philatelic Society

President: Fred J. Melville.

Secretary: H. F. Johnson, 4 Portland Place North, Clapham

Meetings: Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C. [Road, S.W.]

Annual Subscription: 1s. 6d.

Next Competitive Display—Four Diplomas

THE next diplomas of the Society will be awarded in connexion with a competitive display of philatelic literature and for short papers on philatelic subjects.

The following is a table showing the requirements of the examiners for the literature contest:—

| Div. | Class of Book, etc. | Limited to | Possible marks. |
|------------------------|---|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. | The best specialist monographs. | Two books. | 14* |
| 2. | The best general works. | Two books. | 14 |
| 3. | The best representative catalogues. | Two books. | 14 |
| 4. | The best representative periodicals. | Two books. | 14 |
| 5. | Postal or philatelic pamphlets, minor handbooks, etc. | Four books. | 14 |
| 6. | Manuscript compilations, books of cuttings, methods of arrangement of library (description only), library accessories, and any form of individual work in connexion with philatelic literature. | Two entries. | 25 |
| Total marks obtainable | | | 100 |
| | | | Bonus 5 |

* Distributed as nearly as possible as follows: seven points for literary value, four for condition, three for rarity. Condition here does not mean that the book has not been cut for use in the exhibitor's library. Unopened books are of no use for study in that condition, and this contest is provided chiefly with the intention of promoting the study of useful books.

The Committee will take the term "book" to mean a complete work, whether it consists of one or more volumes. In the case of periodicals only one volume of each will be necessary, but the sender should state the number of volumes in his or her set.

Two diplomas will be awarded in this philatelic display.

All entries should be sent to Mr. R. Shepherd, c/o Mr. Charles Nissen, 7 Southampton Row, W.C., by Tuesday, 2 January, 1906.

Entries for the second contest, consisting of short papers on philatelic subjects, are divided into two classes, one (a) for members over twenty-one years of age, the other (b) for members under twenty-one years of age. One diploma in each class. These should be sent to Mr. R. Shepherd, Secretary to the Examining Committee, by Tuesday, 2 January, 1906.

Books, etc., entered for the first contest must be called for after the display on Saturday, 6 January, or arrangements must be made for the return of same, carriage forward, to the competitor.

Bristol and Clifton Philatelic Society

A MEETING of this Society was held on 7 December, 1905, at 6 Priory Road, Alderman Gardner in the chair. After some routine business had been transacted, the very fine collection of West Indian stamps belonging to Mr. E. Heginbottom was displayed, comprising a superb lot of Barbados, Grenada, Dominica, and Jamaica.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. E. Heginbottom for his kindness in sending his stamps.

There are a few vacancies for new members.

HENRY ALSOP, *Hon. Sec.*

25, ALMA ROAD, CLIFTON, BRISTOL.

THE STAMP MARKET

By AN ODD LOT

A Peep at Specialism

In the pages of *G. S. W.* everything in the shape of minor varieties is barred, and the general collector, as well as the beginner, is wisely advised to stick to normal issues until he feels sure of his ground. Nevertheless, even the probationer must now and again hanker after a glimpse at the results of the specialist's work, for such work must be the ultimate goal of the earnest and persistent stamp collector.

Here, then, is the full catalogue of the sale of a specialized collection of Zanzibar stamps by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper in London on 7 December, 1905. It affords one of the best auction-room peeps into specialism that I have seen for many years.

ZANZIBAR ON INDIAN. Surcharged in Blue.

| Lot | £ s. d. |
|---|---------|
| 1. $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," used, on piece and very fine | 2 0 0 |
| 2. Another very fine specimen | 1 17 0 |
| 3. A similar lot | 1 19 0 |
| 4. 1 anna, plum, tall second "Z," used, on piece with three other values | 1 18 0 |
| 5. Ditto, small second "z," used, on piece and very fine | 2 0 0 |
| 6. Ditto, a fine horizontal pair | 3 7 6 |
| 7. Ditto, small second "z," a single specimen, unused, in mint state | 3 0 0 |
| 8. Ditto, another used, and very fine | 1 17 0 |
| 9. Ditto, another fine specimen, used, on piece | 1 12 0 |
| 10. Ditto, another fine specimen, used, on piece with a $2\frac{1}{2}$ a., green | 1 16 0 |

Black Surcharge.

| | |
|--|--------|
| 11. $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green, twenty-six mint specimens, including blocks, and three unused | 1 0 0 |
| 12. Ditto, the error "Zanzidar," very fine | 2 10 0 |
| 13. Ditto, another fine specimen of this error, but with inverted "p" for "d" | 2 10 0 |
| 14. Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," four mint specimens (one in a pair) and one used | 1 0 0 |
| 15. Ditto, variety "i" without dot, three mint specimens, and one used; variety inverted "q" for "b," one mint and two used specimens (one in a pair), and eight others | 1 3 0 |
| 16. Ditto, variety inverted "q" for "b" and small second "z," thirty mint specimens, some in blocks (showing types) and eleven used, etc. | 2 2 0 |
| 17. Ditto, ditto, with Gothic second "z," five mint and one used; ditto, with "r" variety, four mint and one used; ditto, with inverted small second "z," one mint | 0 11 0 |
| 18. Ditto, variety with large "b," in a mint horizontal pair, very rare | 1 10 0 |
| 19. Ditto, variety with antique first "Z," mint; variety with small second "z" and Arabic figure for "r" (two. one in block, mint); variety tall second "Z" (fifteen mint and six, used, some in blocks) | 1 7 0 |
| 20. Ditto, variety with small second "z" in different positions, a nice lot, mostly mint | 1 7 0 |
| 21. Ditto, variety with Gothic second "z" (two, one in block, mint), and the remainder of the collection of this value, including blocks showing types, mostly mint | 1 10 0 |
| 22. 1 anna, plum, twenty-three mint specimens and seven used | 1 0 0 |
| 23. Ditto, the error "Zanzidar," used on piece, and fine | 3 5 0 |
| 24. Ditto, the error "Zanibar," fine | 4 5 0 |
| 25. Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," four mint and one used, the latter with small second "z" below the line | 0 18 0 |
| 26. Ditto, variety "i" without dot, five mint and two used | 1 4 0 |
| 27. Ditto, variety inverted "q" for "b," two used; ditto, with small second "z," on and above the line, twenty-three mint (including blocks) and ten used | 1 5 0 |

| Lot | £ s. d. |
|--|---------|
| 28. 1 anna, plum, inverted "q" for "b," and "r" var. (three, one mint); var. with Gothic second "z" (three mint and one used); variety with Arabic "r" (three, two mint): variety with antique first "Z" (in block of four and pair, mint) | 1 0 0 |
| 29. Ditto, variety with antique first "Z" (in mint block of four), tall second "Z" (three mint and four used), and others | 0 18 0 |
| 30. Ditto, variety "Zanzibar" (spaced), in an unused block of four, mint, rare | 1 8 0 |
| 31. Ditto, small second "z," tall second "Z," "r," and other varieties, thirty-three mint and five used | 1 1 0 |
| 32. Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value mostly mint, and including blocks showing types | 1 14 0 |
| 33. $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna, sepia, twenty-one mint, including blocks, and three used | 1 4 0 |
| 34. Ditto, the error "Zanzidar," inverted "p" for "d" | 4 0 0 |
| 35. Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," three mint (one in strip of three) and one used | 1 1 0 |
| 36. Ditto, variety "i" without dot, mint, inverted "q" for "b" (one used), and ditto with Gothic second "z" (three mint) | 1 0 0 |
| 37. Ditto, variety small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," eighteen mint (including pairs) and nine used | 2 2 0 |
| 38. Ditto, ditto, with Arabic "r" (one used), tall second "Z" (ten mint, two in strips, and eight used), and others | 1 10 0 |
| 39. Ditto, variety "Zanzibar" (spaced), fine and very scarce | 1 10 0 |
| 40. Ditto, small second "z" varieties, thirty-four mint (including strip and pairs) and fourteen used | 1 6 0 |
| 41. Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, including Gothic second "z" (in block), "b" without serif, broken types, etc., mostly in blocks, and all mint but one | 1 5 0 |
| 42. 2 annas, ultramarine, seventeen mint (including block and pair) and twelve used | 1 10 0 |
| 43. Ditto, variety twice surcharged, a mint vertical pair, the lower stamp has no dot to the letter "i," very rare | 21 0 0 |
| 44. Ditto, ditto, a single mint specimen | 1 18 0 |
| 45. Ditto, a similar lot | 1 16 0 |
| 46. Ditto, another | 2 0 0 |
| 47. Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," two mint and three used | 1 5 0 |
| 48. Ditto, variety "i" without dot, two mint and two used (one with broken "b") | 1 5 0 |
| 49. Ditto, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b" varieties, sixteen mint and eleven used | 2 0 0 |
| 50. Ditto, ditto, with "r" variety, three mint (two in pairs) and one used; ditto, with Gothic second "z" (three mint): variety with antique first "Z" mint (in block of four); and one used and others | 1 1 0 |
| 51. Ditto, variety with large "b," in a horizontal pair, fine and scarce | 2 0 0 |
| 52. Ditto, variety with tall second "Z," seventeen mint (including blocks and pairs), and four used, etc. | 2 2 0 |
| 53. Ditto, variety small second "z," a fine lot, mostly mint, also "r" varieties | 1 8 0 |
| 54. Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, mostly mint, including blocks (showing types), a fine lot | 1 10 6 |
| 55. 2½ annas, green, twenty-three mint (including blocks and pairs) and ten used | 1 12 0 |
| 56. Ditto, the error "Zanzidar," used, on piece and fine | 3 17 6 |
| 57. Ditto, another specimen of this error, but with inverted "p" for "d" | 3 7 6 |
| 58. Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," five mint (1 in block) and two used | 1 19 0 |
| 59. Ditto, variety "i" without dot, three mint and two used | 1 10 0 |
| 60. Ditto, variety inverted "q" for "b" (one used), ditto, and small second "z," fifteen mint (including "r" variety) and eleven used | 1 16 0 |

| Lot | | £ s. d. | Lot | | £ s. d. |
|------|--|---------|------|---|---------|
| 61. | 2½ annas, green, Gothic second "z," two mint and one used, Antique first "Z" (one used) and var. with tall second "Z" (six mint and eight used) | 1 10 0 | 104. | 8 annas, dull mauve, with "r" variety, two mint, and antique first "Z," one used | 1 2 0 |
| 62. | Ditto, small second "z" in conjunction with other varieties, the collection, thirty-nine specimens, mostly mint | 1 18 0 | 105. | Ditto, variety with large "b," very fine, and scarce | 2 15 0 |
| 63. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, mostly mint, including blocks | 1 19 0 | 106. | Ditto, tall second "z," two mint and one used, on piece with three other values | 1 10 0 |
| 64. | 3 annas, brown-orange, nineteen mint (including block and pair) and six used | 1 8 0 | 107. | Ditto, variety with small second "z," pair and two singles mint and two used | 1 13 0 |
| 65. | Ditto, the error "Zanzidar," very fine (see photo) | 3 12 6 | 103. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value (dull mauve), including mint block of four showing types | 1 7 0 |
| 66. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," three mint (one in block of four) | 1 7 0 | 109. | 8 annas, aniline mauve, twelve mint (including block of four) and three used | 2 2 0 |
| 67. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, six mint specimens (one in horizontal pair) | 1 14 0 | 110. | Ditto, three mint pairs and one used | 0 15 0 |
| 68. | Ditto, inverted "q" for "b," (one mint); ditto, with small second "z," seventeen mint and seven used | 3 2 6 | 111. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," in an unused block of four, mint | 1 6 0 |
| 69. | Ditto, Gothic second "z," three mint (one in pair), Antique first "Z" (one mint), and Arabic "r" (two mint) | 0 14 0 | 112. | Ditto, a single mint specimen of this variety | 0 17 0 |
| 70. | Ditto, variety with large "b," mint and very scarce | 1 18 0 | 113. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, mint | 1 0 0 |
| 71. | Ditto, variety "Zanz ibar" (spaced), in a mint horizontal pair | 2 17 6 | 114. | Ditto, ditto, and "b" without serif, one mint and one used | 1 4 0 |
| 72. | Ditto, variety "Zanz ibar," a single mint specimen of this scarce variety | 2 10 0 | 115. | Ditto, a similar lot | 1 1 0 |
| 73. | Ditto, variety tall second "Z," eight mint (one in pair) and four used | 1 6 0 | 116. | Ditto, variety small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," four mint | 0 17 0 |
| 74. | Ditto, small second "z" in conjunction with other varieties, sixteen mint and two used | 1 10 0 | 117. | Ditto, Gothic second "z," three mint, one in a pair with the tall second "Z" variety | 1 1 0 |
| 75. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, mostly mint, and including pairs | 1 10 0 | 118. | Ditto, antique first "Z," mint | 0 15 0 |
| 76. | 4 annas, olive-green, twenty-nine mint (including blocks) and four used | 1 10 0 | 119. | Ditto, tall second "Z," two in mint, horizontal pairs | 0 12 0 |
| 77. | Ditto, the error "Zapzibar," but with tail of "p" erased | 2 8 0 | 120. | Ditto, ditto, four mint | 0 13 0 |
| 78. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," two used specimens (one on piece with ½ a.) | 0 15 0 | 121. | Ditto, ditto, three mint and two used | 0 15 0 |
| 79. | Ditto, variety "Zanz ibar" (spaced), mint and very scarce | 1 0 0 | 122. | Ditto, variety, small second "z," three mint and two used | 0 10 0 |
| 80. | Ditto, another mint specimen of this scarce variety | 1 0 0 | 123. | Ditto, ditto, five mint and two used | 0 12 0 |
| 81. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, three mint and one used | 1 9 0 | 124. | Ditto, ditto, five mint and one used | 0 12 0 |
| 82. | Ditto, inverted "q" for "b," mint (in strip of three) and one used; ditto, with small second "z," sixteen mint and eleven used | 3 10 0 | 125. | Ditto, "r" and other varieties, four mint and two used | 0 13 0 |
| 83. | Ditto, ditto, with "r" variety, three mint and one used; Gothic second "z," four mint (one in pair), Arabic "r" (one used); tall second "Z" with varieties, four mint and two used | 1 6 0 | 126. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value (aniline mauve), including block of four, all mint but two | 1 10 0 |
| 84. | Ditto, tall second "Z," thirteen mint and four used | 1 10 0 | 127. | 12 annas, brown on red, seven mint and two used | 1 10 0 |
| 85. | Ditto, small second "z," ten mint and nine used, including "r" and other varieties | 0 15 0 | 128. | Ditto, a similar lot | 1 3 0 |
| 86. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, including broken type and other varieties, mostly mint | 1 5 0 | 129. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," | 2 5 0 |
| 87. | 6 annas, bistre, eighteen mint (including block and pairs) and five used | 2 0 0 | 130. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, three mint and one used | 2 10 0 |
| 88. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," three mint specimens | 1 5 0 | 131. | Ditto, small second "z," "r," and other varieties, six mint and five used | 2 2 0 |
| 89. | Ditto, ditto, one mint in a horizontal pair, and one used | 0 18 0 | 132. | Ditto, Gothic second "z," two mint and antique first "Z," two used | 1 5 0 |
| 90. | Ditto, the error "Zapzibar," but with tail of "p" erased | 2 15 0 | 133. | Ditto, variety with large "b," in a horizontal pair, fine and rare | 3 5 0 |
| 91. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, three mint specimens | 1 6 0 | 134. | Ditto, tall second "Z," two in mint pairs, and three used | 1 1 0 |
| 92. | Ditto, variety small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," nine mint and six used, including "r" variety | 2 16 0 | 135. | Ditto, ditto, 8 mint | 2 0 0 |
| 93. | Ditto, Gothic second "z," three mint and two used, antique first "z," one mint and one used | 1 5 0 | 136. | Ditto, small second "z," two pairs and seven singles mint, and two used | 1 11 0 |
| 94. | Ditto, variety "Zanz ibar," (spaced), mint, and very scarce | 2 4 0 | 137. | Ditto, ditto, raised, pair and four singles mint, and four used | 1 1 0 |
| 95. | Ditto, another specimen of this scarce variety, used | 1 10 0 | 138. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, mint, antique first "Z," used, and the "r" variety, mint | 1 10 0 |
| 96. | Ditto, variety tall second "Z," seven mint specimens | 1 3 0 | 139. | Ditto, variety "Zanz ibar" (spaced), in a mint horizontal pair | 2 0 0 |
| 97. | Ditto, ditto, four mint and three used | 1 0 0 | 140. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, including block of four, pair and five singles, mint | 2 0 0 |
| 98. | Ditto, variety small second "z," sixteen mint (including block) and five used | 1 5 0 | 141. | 1 rupee, slate, a horizontal pair and single, mint | 1 11 0 |
| 99. | Ditto, ditto, with "r" variety, five mint and two used, and others | 0 15 0 | 142. | Ditto, mint and a used specimen | 1 2 0 |
| 100. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, mostly mint in pairs, including broken type varieties | 1 8 0 | 143. | Ditto, a similar lot | 1 3 0 |
| 101. | 8 annas, dull mauve, five mint and one used | 1 6 0 | 144. | Ditto, variety inverted "q" for "b," used on piece and fine | 2 10 0 |
| 102. | Ditto, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," three mint and one used | 2 0 0 | 145. | Ditto, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," two mint | 1 8 0 |
| 103. | Ditto, ditto, but second "z" raised, six mint and three used | 3 17 6 | 146. | Ditto, ditto, one mint and one used | 1 5 0 |
| | | | 147. | Ditto, ditto, two mint specimens, one with second "z" inverted | 1 1 0 |
| | | | 148. | Ditto, variety small second "z" inverted, mint | 0 16 0 |
| | | | 149. | Ditto, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," two mint | 1 4 0 |
| | | | 150. | Ditto, a similar lot | 1 3 0 |
| | | | 151. | Ditto, ditto, a vertical pair and two singles, used, very fine | 1 19 0 |
| | | | 152. | Ditto, ditto five used specimens, fine | 2 5 0 |
| | | | 153. | Ditto, tall second "Z," two mint | 1 1 0 |
| | | | 154. | Ditto, small second "z," on the line (2) and above the line (1 mint and 2 used) | 2 0 0 |
| | | | 155. | Ditto, the "r" variety, mint, and two others | 1 14 0 |
| | | | 156. | 1 rupee, carmine and green, seven mint (including pair) and two used | 1 10 0 |
| | | | 157. | Ditto, eight mint and two used | 1 10 0 |
| | | | 158. | Ditto, surcharged vertically downwards, a mint block of four | 3 0 0 |
| | | | 159. | Ditto, ditto, a single mint specimen, variety "i" without dot | 2 2 0 |

| Lot | | £ s. d. | Lot | | £ s. d. |
|---------------------------------|---|---------|-----------------------|---|---------|
| 160. | 1 rupee, carmine and green, surcharged vertically downwards, a mint vertical pair | 1 17 0 | 218. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 5), on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., sepia, small second "z" variety, a mint vertical pair | 1 3 0 |
| 161. | Ditto, ditto, a mint horizontal pair | 1 10 0 | 214. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 5), on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., sepia, small second "z" variety, a single mint specimen | 0 15 0 |
| 162. | Ditto, ditto, a single mint specimen | 1 14 0 | | | 0 15 0 |
| 163. | Ditto, a similar lot | 1 10 0 | 215. | Ditto, a fine used specimen | 0 15 0 |
| 164. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, one mint and a used specimen | 2 0 0 | 216. | Ditto, a mint vertical pair, top stamp with "i" in " $\frac{1}{2}$ " for figure "1" | 1 12 0 |
| 165. | Ditto, ditto, a single mint specimen | 0 19 0 | 217. | Ditto, another mint specimen, apparently "Zanzibar" altered to "Zanzibar" | 0 16 0 |
| 166. | Ditto, ditto, and "b" without serif, three mint | 2 4 0 | 218. | Ditto, tall second "Z," mint, and another with small second "z," used | 0 16 0 |
| 167. | Ditto, ditto, two mint | 1 12 0 | 219. | Ditto, small second "z," two mint and one used, and a mint specimen with "r" variety | 0 17 0 |
| 168. | Ditto, antique first "Z," mint, Gothic second "z," mint, and the "r" variety, used | 1 7 0 | 220. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 6), on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., sepia, two mint specimens and one used | 1 0 0 |
| 169. | Ditto, tall second "Z," three mint | 1 1 0 | 221. | Ditto, small second "z," a mint vertical pair, top stamp with inverted figure "1" in fraction | 1 14 0 |
| 170. | Ditto, ditto, three mint | 1 0 0 | 222. | Ditto, ditto, three mint | 1 0 0 |
| 171. | Ditto, ditto, and "r" variety, two mint | 0 14 0 | 223. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 7), on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., sepia, small second "z," two mint | 0 17 0 |
| 172. | Ditto, small second "z," pair and four mint, and three singles, used | 1 3 0 | 224. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 9), on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., sepia, mint, and a used specimen of Type 2 with inverted figure "1" in fraction | 1 12 0 |
| 173. | Ditto, ditto raised, eight mint and three used | 1 13 0 | 225. | Ditto, variety, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," a mint horizontal pair | 0 16 0 |
| 174. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," used, and very fine | 1 8 0 | 226. | Ditto, "i" without dot, mint | 1 7 0 |
| 175. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value (carmine and green) including two blocks of four, and five singles, mint | 2 10 0 | 227. | Ditto, small second "z," a vertical strip of three, mint | 1 4 0 |
| 176. | 2 rupees, cinnamon and carmine, six mint | 1 12 0 | 228. | Ditto, ditto, three mint | 1 1 0 |
| 177. | Ditto, pair and single mint, and our used | 1 16 0 | 229. | Ditto, ditto, one mint (inkspot), and a pair and two singles used | 1 12 0 |
| 178. | Ditto, block of four with bottom margin mint, and single, used | 1 5 0 | 230. | Ditto, ditto, raised, a horizontal pair and a single, mint | 1 16 0 |
| 179. | Ditto, antique first "Z," two mint and two used (one with dropped "r") | 1 9 0 | 231. | Ditto, a similar lot | 0 19 0 |
| 180. | Ditto, tall second "Z," three mint and one used | 1 0 0 | 232. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 9), small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," a horizontal strip of four, used, and the "r" variety mint | 0 18 0 |
| 181. | Ditto, ditto, one mint and one used, the latter with surcharge at bottom of stamp, and dropped "r" | 0 18 0 | 233. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 11), mint | 0 15 0 |
| 182. | Ditto, "r" variety, in a pair and single mint, and one used | 1 0 0 | 234. | Ditto, small second "z," used and very scarce | 0 15 0 |
| 183. | 3 rupees, green and brown, block of four mint and two used | 1 10 0 | 235. | Ditto, ditto, raised, used and very scarce | 0 10 0 |
| 184. | Ditto, pair and three singles | 1 7 0 | 236. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Types 2 and 4) on $1\frac{1}{2}$ a., sepia in a mint vertical pair | 1 1 0 |
| 185. | Ditto, four mint and two used | 1 10 0 | 237. | Ditto (Types 5 and 2), in a mint vertical pair | 1 4 0 |
| 186. | Ditto, antique first "Z," in a mint horizontal pair, and three minor varieties | 1 12 0 | 238. | Normal type, one mint and two used (one on piece with 4 a.) | 1 6 0 |
| 187. | Ditto, ditto, two mint and two used | 1 1 0 | 239. | Variety "i" without dot, one mint and one used | 1 11 0 |
| 188. | Ditto, tall second "Z," three mint | 1 1 0 | 240. | Ditto, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," one mint and two used | 1 7 0 |
| 189. | Ditto, ditto, one mint, one used, and two other varieties mint | 1 2 0 | 241. | Ditto, small second "z" one mint and one used | 0 18 0 |
| 190. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, including two with overprint at bottom of stamp, three are mint | 1 15 0 | 242. | Ditto, ditto, a mint horizontal pair | 0 17 0 |
| 191. | 5 rupees violet and blue, a pair and three singles, mint | 1 17 0 | 243. | Ditto, ditto, one mint and two used | 1 5 0 |
| 192. | Ditto, four mint and five used | 3 5 0 | 244. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in black (Gibbons' Type 4), on 1 a., plum, in a mint vertical pair with Type 3 | 1 8 0 |
| 193. | Ditto, variety, twice surcharged, once inverted, mint | 4 4 0 | 245. | Ditto, normal type, two used | 1 4 0 |
| 194. | Ditto, ditto, a similar specimen | 3 0 0 | 246. | Ditto, variety, small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," one used, and another used with small second "z" only | 1 10 0 |
| 195. | Ditto, ditto, another mint specimen with "r" variety | 3 0 0 | 247. | Ditto, small second "z," one mint and one used | 1 12 0 |
| 196. | Ditto, "r" of "Zanzibar" inverted, very rare | 5 10 0 | 248. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in black (Gibbons' Type 5), on 1 a., plum, normal type, two mint | 1 0 0 |
| 197. | Ditto, antique first "Z," two in mint horizontal pairs | 1 10 0 | 249. | Ditto, variety without fraction bar, one mint | 0 14 0 |
| 198. | Ditto, ditto, two mint and two used | 1 5 0 | 250. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, one mint | 1 10 0 |
| 199. | Ditto, ditto, one mint and two used, and another variety mint | 1 4 0 | 251. | Ditto, tall second "Z," two mint | 1 1 0 |
| 200. | Ditto, mint block of four showing types | 1 8 0 | 252. | Ditto, on 1 a., plum, small second "z," one mint and one used, and inverted "q" for "b," one used | 1 6 0 |
| 201. | Ditto, tall second "Z," two mint and one used | 1 1 0 | 253. | Ditto, ditto, raised, two mint and one used | 1 8 0 |
| 202. | Ditto, the remainder of the collection of this value, including broken type and other varieties, all mint but one | 2 4 0 | 254. | Ditto, Types 4, 3, and 5, in a mint vertical strip of three, top stamp has inverted figure "1" and no fraction bar in " $\frac{1}{2}$," second stamp, no serif to "b," and third stamp no dot to letter "i," very rare | 7 0 0 |
| 203. | Indian stamps used in Zanzibar prior to 10, 11, 1895, the collection | 2 14 0 | | | 1 10 0 |
| 1895-96 Provisionals on Indian. | | | | | |
| | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 2) on $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna, sepia. | | | | |
| 204. | Normal type, two mint and six used specimens | 1 7 0 | 255. | Ditto, Types 3 and 5 in a mint vertical pair | 1 10 0 |
| 205. | The error "Zanzibar" in a horizontal strip of four, very fine | 7 0 0 | 256. | Ditto, a mint corner block of eight with full margins, comprising four of Type 3 and two each of Types 4 and 5, very fine and scarce | 8 10 0 |
| 206. | A single specimen of this scarce error | 8 0 0 | 257. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 5), on 1 a., plum, normal type, a mint vertical pair | 1 18 0 |
| 207. | The error "Zanzibar" in a fine horizontal pair | 7 0 0 | 258. | Ditto, tall second "Z," one mint | 0 15 0 |
| 208. | Variety small second "z" and inverted "q" for "b," two mint and four used; variety small second "z," in a mint pair and a single used (no fraction bar to $\frac{1}{2}$) | 1 10 0 | 259. | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red (Gibbons' Type 9), normal type, one mint | 0 18 0 |
| 209. | Ditto, with large "b," extreme corner gone, but very scarce | 1 0 0 | 260. | Ditto, small second "z," one mint | 0 11 0 |
| 210. | Ditto, "i" without dot, used, small second "z," two mint and four used, and a normal mint specimen without fraction bar | 1 11 0 | 261. | Ditto, ditto, dropped, one mint | 0 13 0 |
| 211. | Ditto, tall second "Z," two mint, one in horizontal pair, "b" without serif, mint, and two used pairs showing types | 1 6 0 | 262. | Ditto, ditto, raised, one mint | 0 14 0 |
| 212. | Ditto, "p" with tail broken off for "n," and other varieties in a mint block of fifteen with left side margin, very fine | 3 10 0 | 1895-96 Provisionals. | | |
| | " $\frac{2}{3}$ " in red on 2 a., ultramarine. | | | | |
| 263. | Type 4, normal type, two mint | 1 1 0 | 263. | Type 4, normal type, two mint | 1 1 0 |
| 264. | Ditto, ditto, one used | 0 11 0 | 264. | Ditto, ditto, one used | 0 11 0 |
| 265. | Ditto, variety small second "z," one mint | 0 11 0 | 265. | Ditto, variety small second "z," one mint | 0 11 0 |
| 266. | Ditto, ditto, one used | 0 11 0 | 266. | Ditto, ditto, one used | 0 11 0 |

| Lot | | £ | s. | d. |
|------|---|---|----|----|
| 267. | Type 4, one mint | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 268. | Ditto, tall second "Z," one used | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 269. | Type 5, small second "z," one mint | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 270. | Ditto, a mint vertical pair, one with tall second "Z" | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 271. | Type 6, normal type, seven mint | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 272. | Ditto, ditto, six used | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 273. | Ditto, a mint horizontal pair, one with Roman "I" in fraction, and two others (used) | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 274. | Ditto, inverted figure "i" in ($\frac{1}{2}$), one poor, and two others | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 275. | Ditto, ditto, and tall second "Z," one mint and one used | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 276. | Ditto, ditto, and small second "z," one mint, Roman "i" in ($\frac{1}{2}$) and small second "z," one mint, and three others | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| 277. | Ditto, variety, "Zanzibar" (spaced), used on piece and very fine | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 278. | Ditto, variety "i" without dot, one mint and one used | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 279. | Ditto, variety "p" with tail broken off for "n," in a mint horizontal pair | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| 280. | Ditto, a single mint specimen of this scarce variety | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 281. | Ditto, Gothic second "z" etc., seven mint | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 282. | Ditto, tall second "Z," pair and two singles mint, and one used, small second "z," pair and three singles mint | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 283. | Ditto, broken type and other varieties, four mint and three used | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 284. | Ditto, mint block of four, including the inverted figure "i," Roman "I," and tall second "Z" varieties, scarce | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| 285. | Ditto, block of four, strip of three and two pairs, all mint and showing types | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| 286. | Type 7, variety inverted figure "i" in fraction, mint, and three others | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| 287. | Ditto, inverted "i" in fraction and tall second "Z," one mint and one used | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 288. | Ditto, antique first "Z," one used, tall second "Z," one mint and two used | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| 289. | Ditto, small second "z," two mint and another also with antique first "Z" used | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 290. | Type 9, normal type, one mint, and small second "z," one mint | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 291. | Ditto, small second "z," one mint and one used | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 292. | Ditto, "i" without dot, used, and another | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 293. | Ditto, one mint and another | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 294. | Type 11, tall second "Z," one mint | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| 295. | Ditto, ditto, one used | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 296. | Types 5 and 9, in a mint vertical pair | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 297. | Types 6 (2) and 7, in a vertical strip of three, and Types 6 and 7 (2) ditto, showing varieties | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 298. | Types 6 and 7, two of each in a mint block of four, one of the latter with antique first "Z" | 1 | 0 | 0 |

Stamps of British East Africa overprinted "Zanzibar."
June to August, 1896

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|----|---|
| 299. | $\frac{1}{2}$ a., yellow-green, five mint and one used | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 300. | Ditto, "i" without dot, tall second "Z," and other varieties, one mint and six used | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 301. | Ditto, an unused block of six in mint state | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| 302. | Ditto, ditto, with bottom margin | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 303. | Ditto, ditto, with full corner margins | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 304. | 1 a., carmine-rose, four mint and six used | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| 305. | Ditto, six mint specimens including "i" without dot, Gothic second "z," and other varieties | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| 306. | Ditto, a pair and four used, showing varieties | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| 307. | Ditto, an unused block of four in mint state | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 308. | Ditto, a horizontal strip of three and a block of three in mint state | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 309. | Ditto, error, twice surcharged, a mint horizontal pair | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 310. | Ditto, a single specimen, used | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| 311. | Ditto, a single mint specimen, small second "z" variety | 1 | 18 | 0 |
| 312. | 2a., deep blue, three mint | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| 313. | Ditto, a pair and two mint | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 314. | Ditto, four used | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 315. | Ditto, five used | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 316. | Ditto, small second "z" and other varieties, a pair and three used, and one mint | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 317. | Ditto, a mint horizontal pair with bottom margin and a single used | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 318. | $\frac{1}{2}$ a., orange-yellow, "p" with tail broken off for "n," mint, "i" without dot, mint, and one used and two others | 1 | 12 | 0 |
| 319. | Ditto, tall second "Z" and other varieties, six mint, and two used | 1 | 17 | 0 |
| 320. | Ditto, a fine used block of nineteen with left side margin, including the broken "p" and other varieties | 3 | 5 | 0 |

| Lot | | £ | s. | d. |
|------|--|---|----|----|
| 321. | $\frac{1}{2}$ a., orange-yellow, a block of four with bottom margin and a pair, used | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 322. | Ditto, a mint block of eight with Gothic second "z," and other varieties | 1 | 16 | 0 |
| 323. | Ditto, a mint block of six, with similar variety | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 324. | Ditto, a mint corner block of four with full margins and a single mint | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 325. | 5 a., bistre, "i" without dot, four mint and one used | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 326. | Ditto, error "Zanziba," used and scarce | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 327. | Ditto, Gothic second "z" in a mint pair, tall second "Z," two mint and two others | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 328. | Ditto, small second "z" varieties, three mint and three used | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 329. | Ditto, an unused block of six in mint state, including Gothic second "z" and other varieties | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 330. | Ditto, another lot, including tall second "Z" varieties | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 331. | Ditto, a block of four, including "i" without dot and three singles, mint | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| 332. | Ditto, a block of eight used, including "Z" varieties, etc. | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 333. | Ditto, a block of five used and a single | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 334. | Ditto, a block of four used, and a pair and single | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 335. | $\frac{1}{2}$ a., mauve, five mint and one used | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 336. | Ditto, "i" without dot, three mint | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 337. | Ditto, "z" varieties, four mint | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 338. | Ditto, a fine block of fifteen, used, including Gothic "z" and other varieties | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| 339. | Ditto, a mint block of six, including "z" varieties | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 340. | Ditto, a mint block of five ditto | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| 341. | Ditto, a block of four and single used, and a mint pair | 1 | 6 | 0 |

20 September, 1896.

| | | | | |
|------|--|---|----|---|
| 342. | $\frac{1}{2}$ anna to 8 annas, grey-green, the collection of pairs, singles, and small blocks, mostly mint, and a "specimen" set | 1 | 14 | 0 |
| 343. | 1 rupee, ultramarine (shades), including blocks and strips, all mint but two | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| 344. | 2 rupees, green, all mint but four (including blocks) | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| 345. | 3 rupees, purple, including blocks, all mint but three | 3 | 5 | 0 |
| 346. | 4 rupees, lake, including block all mint but three | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| 347. | Ditto, mint blocks of six, six and four, and two used | 2 | 17 | 6 |
| 348. | 5 rupees, sepia, two blocks of six, mint | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 349. | Ditto, strip of three, pair and four singles, mint, and four used | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 350. | $\frac{1}{2}$ a., yellow-green, a mint sheet of sixty, the first vertical row of ten have no watermark, and 1 a., indigo mint sheet of sixty | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 351. | 2 annas to 8 annas, the remainder of the collection, mostly in part mint sheets, some of which have one row with the watermark omitted | 3 | 3 | 0 |

5 January 1897 Provisionals.

| | | | | |
|------|---|----|----|---|
| 352. | "2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in red, on 4 a., myrtle-green, an entire unused pane of sixty in mint state, comprising twenty-six of Type 15, ten of Type 16, and twenty-four of Type 5, very fine and extremely rare | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| 353. | Ditto, an unused part sheet of thirty, comprising thirteen of Type 15, five of Type 16, and twelve of Type 5, very fine and rare | 6 | 10 | 0 |
| 354. | Ditto, Type 5, pair and six singles mint | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| 355. | Ditto ditto, four mint, pair and two singles used | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| 356. | Ditto, Type 15, four mint | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 357. | Ditto, three mint and two used | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 358. | Ditto, Type 16, a horizontal pair, mint | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| 359. | Ditto, three mint and one used | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| 360. | Ditto, various types, two pairs and two singles, mint | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| 361. | Ditto, Type 16, inverted "i" in fraction, in a mint block of four | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| 362. | Ditto, a similar variety in a mint strip of three | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| 363. | Ditto, a mint block of fifteen, comprising thirteen of Type 15 and two of Type 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 364. | Ditto, a block of four, used, showing types and two singles on entires | 0 | 17 | 0 |
| 365. | Ditto, a block of three and pair mint, showing types | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 366. | Ditto, a strip of three and two singles, mint | 1 | 2 | 0 |

May, 1898, Multiple Watermark.

| | | | | |
|------|---|---|---|---|
| 367. | The collection, mostly mint blocks, a very fine lot | 3 | 0 | 0 |
|------|---|---|---|---|

| Lot | September, 1899. | £ s. d. | Lot | £ s. d. | |
|------|--|---------|------|---|--------|
| 368. | The collection, mostly mint, including entire panes | 3 5 0 | 371. | "One" on 4½ a., orange, two blocks of ten, used | 1 12 0 |
| | 1904 Provisionals. | | 372. | Ditto, two blocks of four and pair, mint, and block of six and two singles, used | 1 8 0 |
| 369. | "One" on 4½ a., orange, an unused block of twenty-four, mint | 2 0 0 | 373. | Ditto, block of four, used, showing tall "e" variety | 0 7 0 |
| 370. | Ditto, two blocks of six, strip of three and single, mint | 1 4 0 | 374. | "One" on 4½ a. (mint pair and two used), "Two" on 4 a. (2), "Two & Half" on 7½ a. (2), and "Two & Half" on 8 a. (2) | 2 8 0 |

CORRESPONDENCE

Used Copies of V.R. 1d., black

DEAR SIR,—An interesting article entitled "Stamps to Look For" appeared in last week's *G.S.W.*, and a portion of the article referred to the V.R. 1d. black stamp, and stated that: "Some are said to have been used postally, but most of the stock was destroyed." It may interest you to know that within the past three years four fine postally used copies on entire envelopes were sorted from a sack of waste paper by a paper-mill employee in the Henley district. The sorter knew them to be valuable stamps, and

handed them over to "a gentleman from London" who was shooting near the mill, and who offered to sell them for the finder. He must have been a *very poor* salesman, judging by the sum that was handed to the said finder! A number of the ordinary 1840 1d. blacks, and numerous other old English stamps, were among the waste, and the V.R.'s were seen by a fellow-collector of mine, who offered for one stamp much more than "the gentleman from London" handed over for the four. Yours faithfully,

A. EDWARD HOBBS.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES, 10 Dec., 1905.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Bound Copies of Vol. I.—We regret to learn from our publishers that they have only been able to bind up some twenty-five copies of Vol. I, all told. By some strange oversight no sheets seem to have been set aside for binding, so that few copies will be available even at the publishers' price of 10s.

Editorial Communications.—All communications intended for the Editor should be addressed to Edward J. Nankivell, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Correspondence.—The Editor regrets that he has no time for direct correspondence. All letters requiring a reply will be dealt with under the head of "Answers to Correspondents."

Examination of Stamps.—This work is done by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., whose terms for the examination of stamps sent to them for their opinion are, cash in advance: 2s. 6d. per dozen; a minimum charge of 1s. being made if less than twelve stamps are sent. Postages extra. The stamps should be sent lightly fastened on sheets, with sufficient space above each stamp for the insertion of the desired information.

The following abbreviations are used in giving an opinion:—B. Bogus, i.e. never existed; F. Forged; G. Genuine; G.F. Stamps genuine, surcharge forged;

R. Reprint; W. Watermark. The charge for marking the forgeries in a collection in its entirety is at the rate of 10s. per 1000 stamps examined, the minimum fee being 5s. Postages extra. If a correspondence is desired, the charge is 1s. for each letter written.

Subscriptions.—Subscriptions must be sent to the publishers as set out on the front page of cover, or to booksellers or railway bookstalls, but never to the Editor.

Covers for Binding Vol. I.—Our publishers are now prepared to supply special covers for binding the numbers of Vol. I of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* in art cloth, lettered front and back, at 1s. 6d. post-free.

Our Miscellaneous Page.—We wish to make *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* a storehouse of information, and shall therefore be glad of any cuttings of more or less permanent interest for our "Miscellaneous" page. Source and date of cutting must be given.

Philatelic Societies.—We wish to make a special feature of the prompt publication of the reports of Philatelic Societies, and trust we may have the kindly co-operation of the honorary secretaries in this matter. Reports should be written on one side of the paper, and despatched to the Editor by the earliest post.

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Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly

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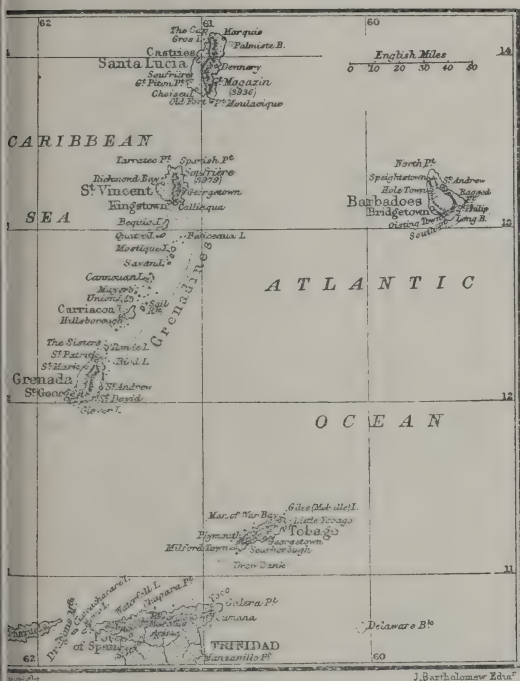
30 DECEMBER, 1905

VOL. II.

THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL

Barbados



It is said to have been first discovered by the Portuguese early in the sixteenth century, and the Spaniards are said to have carried off the natives to slavery in their mines, but as a matter of fact the reliable history of Barbados commences with the visit of an English ship in 1605. In that year the *Olive Blossom* was fitted out by Sir Olive Leigh, "a worshipful knight of Kent," with stores and settlers for his brother's colony in Guiana. The ship touched at Barbados, and the sailors, finding the island unoccupied, set up a cross near the spot where Jamestown, now Hometown, was afterwards built, and left the inscription "James K. of E. and of this island." But it was not colonized till some twenty years afterwards.

Mr. E. V. Lucas, in his *Historical Geography of the British Colonies*, thus tells the story of the first colonization by Sir Richard Courten, a rich London merchant:—

Courten, the founder of the British Colony of Barbados, was of Dutch or Flemish extraction. His father, a Protestant in religion, a tailor by trade, had emigrated to England from the Netherlands, in the days of Spanish tyranny. He prospered in London as a silk and linen merchant, and when he died his two sons and son-in-law entered into partnership in the same line of business, William Courten remaining in London, while his brother Peter was agent for the firm at the Dutch town of Middelburg. A rich trader, with a Dutch connection and therefore a hereditary enmity to Spain, Courten was eminently fitted to initiate and carry out schemes of colonization in the West Indian seas, and the man, who in or about 1625 prayed the King of England for a grant of the lands in the south part of the world, called "Terra Australis Incognita," as not yet traded to by the King's subjects, was clearly gifted with boldness and enterprise, ready

BARBADOS is the most easterly of all the West Indian Islands, and forms—geographically, but not politically—one of the Windward group. It is nearly 21 miles long and 14½ miles wide. Its area is 166 square miles, or a little larger than the Isle of Wight. The population in 1902 was 196,000. The capital is Bridgetown. The colony is administered by a Governor, a Legislative Council, and a House of Assembly.

to risk some of his large fortune as a pioneer of British trade and settlement. He heard of Barbados from Dutch correspondents, and in 1624 one of his own ships, returning from Brazil, was driven by stress of weather to touch at its shores. So bright were the accounts which he received that he determined to send out settlers; and at the end of 1624, or the beginning of 1625, his ship, the *William and John*, commanded by Captain Henry Powell, arrived at the island with some forty emigrants on board, one of whom was the son of John Winthrop, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts. The colonists established themselves near where the men of the *Olive Blossom* had landed; and, in calling their little settlement Jamestown, they seem to have marked the fact that the colonization of Barbados dates from the reign of James the First.

In 1650 it got into serious trouble in espousing the cause of the royalists in the English Civil War, and, after resisting with force the authority of the Commonwealth, eventually came to terms.

The vigorous little colony subsequently furnished some 3500 volunteers for the expedition which took Jamaica and materially helped to colonize the islands of Jamaica, Tobago, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Carolina, Virginia, and New England.

It is given up to the production of sugar: its trade is largely done with America.

Its Philatelic History

The first stamps of the colony were designed and engraved by Perkins Bacon & Co., and were of what is known as the Britannia type, and the same firm continued to print the stamps until 1875, when a change was made to De La Rue & Co., who continued to print from Perkins Bacon & Co.'s plates till 1882, when a series of Queen's Heads was designed and printed by De La Rue & Co. In 1892 these were superseded by the fantastic chariot type still current. There have been only two provisionals, one in 1878, made by dividing the large 5s. stamp vertically and surcharging each half "1d." This provisional is the great rarity of the colony, and is treasured by the specialist in many varieties of the figure "1." The other provisional was issued in 1892 and consisted of the 4d. Queen's Head surcharged HALF-PENNY in small capitals. It is comparatively common. The stamps are now passing through the change of watermark from single CA to multiple CA, and news comes of a projected change to an issue in celebration of the Nelson centenary.

1852. Three values. Design, figure of Britannia seated on bales of merchandise

with a spear in her right hand and her left resting on a shield, and a ship in full sail on the right. This first issue bore no other inscription than the name BARBADOS in a straight label at the foot, and the values were distinguished by colour alone: the green stamp was allotted to the half-penny value, the blue to one penny, and the brownish red to fourpence. They were printed on unwatermarked paper and were issued imperforate.



No wmk. Imperf.

| | | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| (½d.), green | . . . | 25 0 | 20 0 |
| (1d.), blue | . . . | 6 0 | 6 6 |
| (4d.), brownish red | . . . | 12 0 | 16 0 |

1858. Two values. Design as in previous issue, but with the name of the colony transferred to the top of the stamp, where it appears in curved white letters. The value is in white letters in a straight line at the foot. Paper unwatermarked as before and imperforate.

No wmk. Imperf.

| | | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|---------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| 6d., rose-red | . . . | £6 | 16 0 |
| 1s., black | . . . | 45 0 | 10 0 |

1860-70. Five values. Designs unchanged and printed on unwatermarked paper, but perforated.

No wmk. Perf.

| | | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| (½d.), green | . . . | 5 6 | 4 6 |
| (1d.), blue | . . . | 5 1 | 1 0 |
| (4d.), red | . . . | 25 0 | 10 0 |
| 6d., orange | . . . | 35 0 | 3 6 |
| 1s., black | . . . | 10 0 | 4 6 |

1870. The same five values and designs, but printed on paper watermarked with a star and perforated.

Wmk. Star. Perf.

| | | Unused. s. d. | Used. s. d. |
|--------------|-------|------------------|----------------|
| (½d.), green | . . . | 7 6 | 5 0 |
| (1d.), blue | . . . | 25 0 | 2 0 |
| (4d.), red | . . . | 60 0 | 12 6 |
| 6d., orange | . . . | 90 0 | 5 0 |
| 1s., black | . . . | 20 0 | 4 0 |

1873-4. Four values: ½d., 1d., 3d., and 5s. The same general design of

Britannia. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. completed as in the 6d. and 1s. with name in a curve at the top and the value in words at the foot. The 3d. uniform in design. For the 5s. value an enlarged size was adopted, but the design of Britannia was preserved as a centre-piece within a beaded circle; BARBADOS in a straight label at the top and 5 SHILLINGS in a similar label at the foot.



| | Wmk. Star. | Perf. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|-------------------------|------------|-------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green | . | . | 10 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 1d., blue | . | . | 7 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| 3d., purple-brown | . | . | 30 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| 5s., dull rose | . | . | 80 | 0 | 32 | 6 |

1875-8. Six values. Same designs, but printed on paper watermarked Crown CC.

| | Wmk. Crown C.C. | Perf. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green | . | . | 2 | 6 | 0 | 4 |
| 1d., blue | . | . | 6 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 3d., mauve | . | . | 10 | 0 | 8 | 6 |
| 4d., carmine | . | . | 20 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 6d., yellow | . | . | 6 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| 1s., mauve | . | . | 15 | 0 | 6 | 0 |

1878. Provisional, made locally by dividing the 5s. stamp vertically and surcharging each half "1^{d.}" in black.

| Provisional. | Unused. | Used. |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| 1d., in black, on half of 5s., rose | — | £8 |

1882-6. Eight values. Design, diademed profile of Queen Victoria to left within a circle, straight white labels above and below; the upper inscribed with the name of the colony and the lower with the value in words. Watermark Crown CA. Perforated.



| | Wmk. Crown C.A. | Perf. | Unused. | | Used. | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------|----|-------|----|
| | | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green | . | . | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| 1d., carmine | . | . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., blue | . | . | 3 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| 3d., mauve | . | . | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 |
| 4d., grey | . | . | 15 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 4d., brown | . | . | 0 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| 6d., olive-brown | . | . | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| 1s., red-brown | . | . | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 5s., ochre | . | . | 17 | 6 | 20 | 0 |

1892. Provisionals. Provisionals are generally made to provide for some unexpected shortage, but the HALF-PENNY on 4d. Queen's Head had no such excuse; on the contrary, the authorities found themselves, on the eve of a new issue of special design, with such a large remainder of the 4d., brown, of the Queen's Head issue that they decided to use them up as halfpenny stamps, hence the surcharge. 120,000 are said to have been surcharged.

| Provisional. | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------|---------|-------|
| HALF-PENNY on 4d., brown | 0 4 | 0 6 |

1892-9. Ten values. Design, Queen Victoria in a chariot, thus described in Bacon and Napier's excellent handbook on the stamps of Barbados: "Full-length figure of Queen Victoria, robed and crowned, standing in a chariot formed of a shell which is being drawn over the sea by two sea-horses. In her right hand she holds Neptune's trident, and in her left the orb." As to the origin of this design the same writers say: "The new design caused a great deal of comment in philatelic journals when the stamps first appeared, and it was said to represent the arms of the island, which it was further stated were granted by Charles II in 1685. We have taken some little trouble to find out whether this was so or not, and from inquiries that we have made at the Colonial Office in London, we learn that no grant of arms has ever been made to the island. From the same source we have found out that the design on the seal has not always been the same. What it was in the first instance it is impossible to say, but in the time of William IV it bore a representation of that monarch in the chariot. This figure was changed to one representing the Queen when the new seal was sent out to the colony on the accession of Her Majesty, and it therefore seems probable that the figure is altered upon the death of each sovereign." The prices quoted for this issue are

supplied by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and are subsequent to the Catalogue. The 2s. 6d. stamp is getting scarce.



Wmk. Crown CA. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., grey and carmine. | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| ½d., green | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| 1d., rose | 0 3 | 0 1 |
| 2d., blue-black and orange. | 0 5 | 0 3 |
| 2½d., ultramarine | 0 6 | 0 1 |
| 5d., olive-brown | 0 7 | 0 7 |
| 6d., mauve and carmine | 1 0 | 0 8 |
| 8d., orange and ultramarine | 1 3 | 1 0 |
| 10d., blue-green and carmine | 1 1 | 1 1 |
| 2s. 6d., blue-black and orange | — | 5 0 |

1897. Nine values. Design, a glorified enlargement and elaboration of the



chariot type, inscribed VICTORIA: R: I—1837. 1897, in celebration of Her Majesty's jubilee. Watermarked Crown CC, and perforated.

Wmk. Crown CC. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|--------------------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., grey and carmine | 0 1 | 0 1 |
| ½d., dull green | 0 2 | 0 2 |
| 1d., rose | 0 4 | 0 2 |
| 2½d., ultramarine. | 0 6 | 0 4 |
| 5d., olive-black | 3 6 | 4 6 |
| 6d., mauve and carmine | 5 0 | 6 0 |
| 8d., orange and ultramarine | 2 0 | 2 0 |
| 10d., green and carmine | 6 0 | 6 0 |
| 2s. 6d., blue-black and orange | 7 6 | 7 6 |

1903. In this year the colours of the 2s. 6d. of the 1892-9 chariot series were changed from blue-black with name in orange to violet with name in green.

Colours changed.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|---------------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| 2s. 6d., violet and green | 5 0 | — |

1905. Seven values. Design, the small chariot type of the 1892-9 series, but watermarked multiple CA. Perforated.]

Wmk. Multiple CA. Perf.

| | Unused. | Used. |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|
| s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| ½d., grey and carmine | 0 1 | — |
| ½d., dull green | 0 1 | — |
| 1d., carmine | 0 2 | — |
| 2½d., ultramarine | 0 4 | — |
| 6d., mauve and carmine | 0 8 | — |
| 8d., orange and ultramarine. | 1 0 | — |
| 2s. 6d., violet and green | 3 3 | — |

(To be continued.)

PLEASE NOTE

The Prices quoted in the foregoing article are taken from our publishers' latest Catalogue, and are, therefore, the Prices at which Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., will have pleasure in supplying any of the stamps that may be needed by any of our readers.

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STAMPS TO LOOK FOR

By Rev. T. C. WALTON, M.A.

(Continued from page 418)

Baden

THE first issues of Baden were printed in black on coloured papers. The 9 kreuzer value was on lilac-rose paper. A sheet of the bluish green 6 kr. paper was accidentally printed with the 9 kr. value. This error of colour has become so rare that the price of £100 has been paid for a single copy. The stamp is identical with the one illustrated, except that the figure "9" appears in the centre of the design.



1851.

Bavaria

In the design of the first issue of Bavaria, a double-lined ornamented numeral was enclosed within a square frame and surrounded by the inscriptions. The numeral in the 3 kr. and 6 kr. was on a circular ground of colour, the outside edge of which was broken by the inner lines of the square frame. Some twelve months after, a new 6 kr. was issued in which the circular part carrying the value was not broken by the lines of the frame. An unused specimen of the 6 kr., brown, with broken circle, has changed hands at £20. The illustration below depicts the second issue of the 6 kr., in which the line of the circle is unbroken.



1849.

Hawaiian Islands

The Hawaiian Islands (Sandwich Islands) issued a great rarity in the 13 c., blue, for which £70 has been paid. Much

more valuable, however, is the 2 c., blue, which is said to be worth £750.



1851.



1851.

Naples and Sicily

Naples and Sicily were formerly known as the United Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. The central design of the first issue of Naples consisted of the Arms of the Two Sicilies, the horse for Naples on the left, the three human legs with Medusa's head, the symbol of Sicily, on the right, and three fleurs-de-lis, the sign of the House of Bourbon, at the bottom. The inscription of value was expressed in "grana." In the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano, the Arms were enclosed in a circular band inscribed BOLLO DELLA POSTA NAPOLETANA. G $\frac{1}{2}$. When the kingdom was annexed to Piedmont a provisional $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese stamp was issued. This stamp was made by engraving "T" over the "G" in the plate of the $\frac{1}{2}$ grano above described. Some four weeks after, this provisional stamp was superseded by one in which the central design was completely changed. The $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, especially in an unused state, is consequently very rare. £36 has been paid for one unused, while a used specimen is catalogued at £15.



The first issue of Sicily, unused, forms a very nice set, though only the 2 grana, deep cobalt, has become a rarity, with a catalogue price of £6. The story of the issue, however, is not without certain amusing features. Naples had already ap-

propriated the Arms of Sicily for a design. It was therefore decreed that the head of the King, Ferdinand II, commonly known as King Bomba, should figure as the central design of the series. The question of cancellation gave rise to much debate. To obliterate the head of his most sacred Majesty was an indignity not to be suffered for a moment. The difficulty was overcome by the use of a three-sided ornamental frame, which would cancel the stamp, and at the same time would not disfigure King Bomba's head. The writer has lately seen a used set of this series, and he was much amused to find in one or two instances what scant notice had been taken of this injunction, for the cancelling stamp had obliterated nose and mouth and eyes, and truly it was "a dismal sight presented."



1858.

Tuscany

The 1 quattrino and the 1 and 2 soldi of the first issue of Tuscany are rare, both used and unused. All the "crazie" values are rare unused. The pearl of the series is the 60 crazie, brick-red on azure, which, unused, has been valued at £25, and catalogued used at £16. The design, common to all the stamps of the 1851 and 1853 issues, depicts the Lion of Florence crowned and resting its right paw on a shield bearing the fleur-de-lis of the House of Bourbon.

The most valuable of Tuscan stamps is the 3 lire, yellow, of the 1860 issue. Only some half-dozen copies are known unused. Nine years ago a copy changed hands for £210, and £75 was the price for a used specimen. The central design shows a shield bearing the Arms of Savoy. The



1851-2.



1860.

shield rests on a royal mantle, and is surmounted by a crown.

Only one specimen of the Italian 15 c., with surcharge 20 c. printed upside down, is known. Its value is, therefore, somewhat problematical.

The four stamps of the first issue of Moldavia are extremely rare. The design consists of the head of a bull with a five-pointed star between the horns and a post-horn beneath the head. PORTO SCRISOREI, i.e. "Letter postage stamp," is the inscription. An illustration of the 81 paras is given below, together with a list of prices realized.



1856.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| 27 paras, | black on rose, | £35, used. |
| 54 " | blue on green, | £20, unused. |
| 81 " | blue on blue, | £350, unused. |
| 108 " | blue on pink, | £40, used. |

The 27 paras, used, is now catalogued at £50, the 54 paras at £16, and the 108 paras at £40.

Reunion

Reunion, an island belonging to France, lying in the Indian Ocean 350 miles east from Madagascar, has two stamps among the world's greatest rarities. They are the 15 c. and 20 c. of the first issue, 1852. Unused, they have fetched £60 and £48 respectively. £25 each, used, was paid at one of the auction sales in October last.



1852.

Spain

Of Spanish issues, the 2 reales, red, of the 1851 series has realized £33. 10s., and the 2 reales, pale red, 1852, brought £29. These were unused specimens. In the October sales, I note that a used specimen of the former was knocked down at £15. In the annexed illustrations, read DOS REALES instead of SEIS CUARTOS, and CERT^{DO} 2 R^S for FRANCO 6 C^S,

and you have examples of the stamps in question.



1851.



1852.

Of the Arms series of 1854, the 1 real, pale blue, is valued at £20, while the 12 cuartos, rose and blue, of 1865, with frame inverted, is catalogued at £7, used.

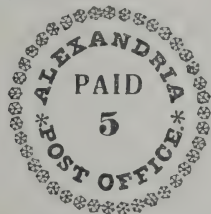
Sweden

Sweden has given us a rarity in the 20 öre, vermilion, of 1872-6, in which TRETIO is inscribed in error for TJUGO (i.e. "Thirty" instead of "Twenty"). £40 has been paid for an example of this error. The latest auction price is £13. 10s.

United States

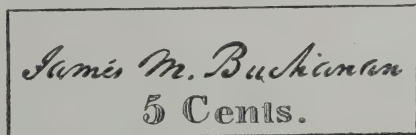
Previously to the appearance of Government issues in the United States, postmasters of certain cities issued stamps for prepayment of postage. These have become the rarest of stamps. The following are some of the prices paid for these treasures:—

Alexandria (Virginia) Post Office, 5 cents, £600.



Baltimore (Maryland), 5 cents, £80.

Baltimore (Maryland), 10 cents, £816.



Brattleboro (Vermont), 5 cents, £100.



Millbury (Massachusetts), 5 cents, £400.



New Haven (Connecticut), 5 cents, £600.



St. Louis (Missouri), 20 cents, £1026 for a pair of 1845 issue.



Wurtemberg

In the first issue of Wurtemberg, the Numeral series, the 9 kreuzer, pale rose, is valued at a ten-pound note, while the 6 kreuzer, green, of the Arms series of 1858, without silk thread, unused, has found a buyer at £20.

These constitute some of the greatest treasures of the philatelic world.

(To be continued.)

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INGLE-NOOK YARNS

THE PHANTOM AUCTION: A CHRISTMAS STAMP YARN

By W. E. IMESON

IT was the festive season, and the conditions were favourable, for once in a way, to a realization of that almost extinct institution—an “old-fashioned Christmas.” Frost and snow without, comfort and jollity within; what could the individual with a lingering affection for the orthodox wish for more? He might, it is true, wish that his poorer brethren were enjoying like luxuries—but that is moralizing, and this is a mere Christmas yarn.

In the smoke-room of “Sydney View House” the men were keeping it up in a right royal manner. The ladies of the house party had long since retired, but the yarns that were going round, under the influence of the “weed” that soothes and the “boy” that cheers, were of a serious, because of a more or less scientific nature. It was a small and select coterie, and the conversation was ideal, consisting as it did of stamp talk. The men to a man were philatelists. Just at that moment when, figuratively speaking, we drop in upon the party, a somewhat frivolous turn had been imparted to the erstwhile “serious” conversation. That keen lover of stamps, but equally imaginative youth, Felix Dreamall, had dropped a remark which, if it led to nothing else, is responsible for this little yarn being written. Therefore to Felix are due the reader’s thanks, or anathemas, as the case may be.

“What a pity,” remarked the enthusiastic “Junior” in question. “What a pity it is that the postage stamp was not invented in the time of (not to go too far back), say, Julius Cæsar! What delightfully ancient and historic issues one might be dropping across now and then! Fancy, for instance” (the speaker was constantly fancying something as delightful as impossible), “just fancy a present-day auction at which stamps of such antiquity were put up!”

“Anyhow, it’s about time that you were knocked down!” put in Dreamall’s

special chum, the brutally practical and matter-of-fact Bob Blockley, a notorious “bloater” of pairs, panes, and strips.

“Wouldn’t it be delightful, though,” persisted the dreamer, “getting hold of a stamp bearing the effigy of Julius Cæsar, or, better still, for a British specialist like you, Bob, a bust of Boadicea?”

The practical Bob ejaculated “Rot!” at the same time adding injury to insult by sending at his chum’s finely developed head a champagne cork. The well-directed missile caught the imaginative youth upon the tip of his classic nose, and awoke him to the stern realities of life, and to the fact that he was in the presence of the Philistine. The cigar-stump with which he retaliated was, however, directed with more force than precision, for it struck and rebounded off the bald head of the worthy host himself, the inoffensive Sir John Vincent (generally known, partly on account of his amiability and partly on account of the particular stamps for which he betrayed a strong weakness, as “St. Vincent”).

“Really, gentlemen,” remarked the imperturbable baronet, “it’s about time that this meeting adjourned, considering the line of argument (not to mention the line of fire) that’s being followed. You, Felix,” he added, silencing that contrite youth’s apologies, “you, by the by, sleep to-night in the famous ‘Dream Room,’ over the mantel of which, you may have noticed, is carved this strange couplet:—

He that lies here sleeps sound and fast,
And dreams of that he thought of last.

Therefore,” and here St. Vincent placed a kindly hand upon his guest’s shoulder, “you will have an opportunity for indulging in night as well as day-dreams, and of being in a position to thrill us in the morning with your, no doubt, weird experiences.”

The old gentleman might have added, only he didn’t happen to think of it,

"There is many a true word spoken in jest."

Twelve sonorous strokes gave the old hall clock as the party broke up and the men wended their way (as the irreverent Blockley put it) "atticwards to roost."

* * * *

Felix had lain awake for he knew not how long, though to him it appeared to be for a proverbial "age." He had begun to think that the "Dream Room" sadly belied its name. Then—the occasion calls for something more than mere conventional phrasing—then a strange thing happened!

A cold air, attuned to a degree to the conditions demanded by ghostly visitation, swept through the apartment. It was followed by that ever-present accessory of uncanny manifestations, the primary "colouring" of "Christmassy" tradition, to wit—a "pale bluish light." The scoffer, if he will, may deride so hackneyed a definition. He may even go to the length and trouble of consulting a colour-chart, but it is doubtful whether he will be able to improve upon the "pale bluish" beloved of ghost-story scribes. The "pale bluish" knew its part (a light tragedy one) to perfection. Centuries of practical experience, mostly in country houses, told it at once (if it required any telling) that it was expected to fill the chamber with an "eerie effulgence." This it accomplished—in a truly un-British workman-like manner.

And then a stranger thing happened. Felix was in an auction-sale room, where "lots" of stamps of unheard-of rarity were being knocked down at terrifically ordinary prices.

"Lot 50,749," cried the auctioneer (Felix, it will be noticed, had arrived somewhat late in the sale. Heaven knows what "bargains" he may have missed!), "commemorative stamp, black on pale bluish; Oliver Cromwell refusing the crown (watermark). Only 14,000,000 of these stamps were printed, gentlemen, and the Restoration saw the plates destroyed. What shall we start with now? Come, gentlemen, surely Oliver's worth something; what shall we put on Cromwell?"

"A crown!"

"A crown, any advance on a crown?"

(Gentlemen, you do make me work!) Going at a crown—gone! Next lot, 50,750. King Charles (no value), head a bit off centre. Shall we say a crown for this?"

"Half!"

"Half a crown. Any advance?"

"—And six!"

"Going at three shillings (really, gentlemen, I must ask you to talk less at that end of the room), going (bang)—gone! Lot 50,750a, Provisional Commemorative. King Charles up a (gum) tree. (A gentleman here asks me if the 'gum' is original. Well, I suppose that I can truthfully say that it is, for it happens to be a little original (gum) joke of my own.) Now, what offers for this tree-mendous rarity?"

Here Dreamall, being particularly interested in "Commemoratives," lost his own head for the sake of King Charles's, and made an eager and unnecessarily high bid. "Fifty guineas!"

(Bang) "Yours, Mr. Dreamall!" Hammerton, the genial auctioneer, was ever ready to knock down sharply when he wished to favour a special client.

Felix pitifully belied his name the next moment by feeling and looking the most unhappy of individuals. Fifty guineas! Where was such a sum to come from?—he still in his collegiate days, and his "guv'nor" holding strictly economical ideas with regard to "allowances." However, there was no crying off his "bargain." Besides, his spirited bid had evoked no little applause (led by the auctioneer), which was dear (very dear) to the youngster.

"Lot 50,751. Boadicea, the rare 'error' with inverted chariot-wheels. Postally used; postmarked 'Londinium, April the'—date indistinct, but presumably the first. (Ironical cheers and laughter.) Another rare stamp is included in this lot: blue on buff, Canute defying the waves, on chalky paper, with sea-watermark. What for the two, please? Shall we say ten pounds?"

"Pence!"

"Shillings!"

"Ten shillings (bang)—yours, Mr. Dreamall! Lot 50,752, Queen Elizabeth, the rare first issue Penny Black. Now, what price for 'Penny Black Bess'? Don't forget, gentlemen, that there's only a million unknown copies of this stamp, and none of them are in the Tapling Col-

lection! Come, shall we start the bidding at a hundred pounds?"

"Guineas!" What impelled Felix to make such a bid he knows not to this day. He was hoping, as soon as made, that his bid had not been heard. Alas!

(Bang) "Yours, Mr. Dreamall." (Applause mingled with laughter.) Dreamall shuddered. To be sure "Penny Black Bess" was his, but was he not riding for a "fall"?

"And now, gentlemen," cried the triumphant auctioneer, "we come to the *pièce de résistance* of this sale. Look at your catalogues, please; the next lot speaks for itself! Lot 50,753, full-length figure of Julius Cæsar, doing the 'Roman fall' (there's no 'drop' about this stamp, rest assured); the rare Roman-red shade; value in Roman numerals; imperf. with enormous margins; without gum, and somewhat heavily cancelled, but otherwise mint. Possibly unique, no other copy being known; the original plate, according to the best authorities, was destroyed by the Druids. Though the stamp is ignored by Bacon, it is referred to in one of Shakespeare's unpublished plays. I have an offer of one thousand pounds for this stamp. Any advance?"

"Two!"

The word that spelt his financial ruin slipped from the lips of Felix ere he was aware that he had uttered it. He tried in vain to add the word "pounds," but his tongue clung to the roof of his mouth. Hammerton got there first.

(Bang) "Gone at two thousand pounds! Yours, Mr. Dreamall, and I thank you, sir!" (Loud and prolonged applause, followed by an impromptu singing of "He's a jolly good fellow.")

It was a proud, yet a miserable moment for the youth with the abnormal imagination. His life-long ambition to rank as one of the Great Moguls of Philately was realized, but at what a cost! Two thousand pounds! His old folks, not too heavily endowed with this world's riches, would be beggared; the old home itself might have to be sold up, and all

for what? Simply that he, an only son, might possess a mere stamp that happened, also, to be an only one. Then the better, if weaker, side of the young man's nature asserted itself. He would not impoverish kith and kin even to become the possessor of such a "gem." It was a case of filial affection versus Philately, and the cause must suffer, not the indulgent parents at home.

"Mr. Hammerton, I—that is, that bid was not mine, it was—that is, I revoke. I said—I meant to say two pounds, not two thousand. Put—put it up again, please!"

What would not a painter have given to have been able to depict the scene?—this fair-haired and fearless young Briton defying a fully-fledged auctioneer (one known, too, as a terror to backsliders), and, what's more, running the gauntlet, as it were, of a roomful of eminent philatelists. True, Felix was literally fighting for home and hearth, yet—what did his recantation mean? Social ostracism and, worse still, philatelic extinction. Nevertheless, he defiantly repeated, "Two pounds!"

Then he was seized upon and roughly shaken by Hammerton, who was no man to trifle with. "Two pounds!" hissed the enraged auctioneer, with a dim foreboding that his prey was slipping from his grasp.

"Two pounds!" gasped the heroic victim.

"Two grandmothers!" shouted a voice in his ear, and, opening his eyes, Felix recognized the jovial countenance—not of Hammerton, but of his friend "Bob." The latter, whose sleeping apartment communicated with the "Dream Room," vowed that he would "smother the slug-gard" if he, Felix, were not "out of bed in half a tick," for the breakfast gong had already sounded.

At breakfast Felix Dreamall had the honour of attracting all eyes and ears, the while he recounted his marvellous (and nightmare) experiences at the Phantom Stamp Auction.

THE YOUNG COLLECTOR'S PACKET.

No. 66, 500 varieties, is strongly recommended as the cheapest collection of 500 different Stamps ever offered—the Stamps could not be bought separately for three times the marvellously low price at which it is now offered. The Stamps, etc., are clean, picked specimens fit for any collection. The best 500 varieties in the trade! 4s. 1d., post-free.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 39, Strand, London, W.C.

GOSSIP OF THE HOUR

By CORNELIUS WRINKLE

A Bishop's Rebuke

MR. BISHOP, in the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, has fallen foul of the Editor of the *Philatelic Record*, and has worked himself up into such righteous wrath that if he goes much farther he will sorely need some one to do the swearing for him. The Editor of the *Record* mildly suggested that idiotic newspaper extracts should not be published in philatelic periodicals without note or comment, i.e. without some correction or explanation. This the Editor of the *S.C.F.* takes to be a sneer at his methods. Now, as a matter of fact, when I read the *Record's* criticism, I thought it referred to one or two extracts published in the "Miscellaneous" page of *G.S.W.*, and I said, "Sarve him right," meaning the boss—not in his hearing. But Mr. Bishop reads into the *Record's* note a "sneering and superior sort of censure," an expression which "amounts almost to an evidence of cowardice."

This clearly is a case of pistols for two and coffee for one, only unfortunately for Mr. Bishop there are said to be three cooks at the *Record* broth, so it would be three to one, and then—why, we might lose our only philatelic Bishop.

A Timely Disclaimer

It having been rumoured that the fugitive inks used in printing our English postage stamps contained particles of arsenic sufficient to poison the whole population if they had too many green shillings to lick, I wrote in terrible trepidation to the new Postmaster-General on the matter, and here is his comforting reply:—

"THE CABINET, 10 Dec., 1905.

"My dear Cornelius,—You seem to have worked yourself up into a state of unnecessary excitement and alarm over the ink used in printing our English shilling stamp. Calm yourself, dear boy, for you may lick English shilling postage stamps till you are blue in the face, without further injury. The green is a vegetable product got, *entre nous*, from squashed cabbage leaves.

"Yours, etc."

The Professional Philatelist

THE *Daily News* is simply astounded to learn that a stamp dealer may make a yearly income of from £700 to £800 a year. Here is what it says:—

The veil that hides the professional philatelist from the public gaze is but seldom lifted, and we owe it to a

misfortune of bankruptcy, of which some details are given in another column, that we now know that a yearly income of from £700 to £800 may be made by a dealer out of the trade in postage stamps alone. Old stamps, of course. It would take, we suppose, a fairly long lifetime for an ordinary dealer in undefaced stamps under the Post Office licence to make £700 out of it. But this philatelist (so described) thrived on the stupefying traffic in smudgy and uninviting little scraps of paper. Had he gone on in the right way, buying and selling his mysterious wares, and putting by, he might have grown rich enough some day to get into Parliament. But he was in a hurry. He speculated in South Africans, which is undoubtedly one way of rising to political power in England, but not a certain one. He lost too much, and now a trustee has been appointed to wind up his estate. The lesson is that philately brooks no rival in the devotion of a man. She claims him all; and he is false to her at his peril.

Is it not a characteristic tit-bit? If you were to walk into the *Daily News* and shout out "South Africa!" you would imagine you had disturbed a hornets' nest, and it comes out even here in a little paragraph like this. But the choice morsel is the contrasting of the small commission the servant of the Post Office gets with the unholy profits of the wicked "professional" stamp dealer.

Post Cards and Envelopes Given Away

Now is the time to start a collection of post cards and envelopes. I have no inclination that way myself, for lack of time—and means; but it is like tempting Providence to let those auctions of Gibbons tons of abandoned stock go by without salting in a few lots. I am told splendid stuff was practically given away at the first auction. The second sale will be held by Glendinings at their rooms probably on 30 and 31 January, when those who have any thought of collecting post cards and envelopes should attend, and secure for a few shillings what some day will come into fashion again and be worth as many pounds.

Catalogue Values Wanted

THIS, from the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*, is not at all bad:—

The following advertisement recently appeared: Exchange stamps; basis Stanley Gibbons. Wanted by a lady long coat suitable for city wear, also a coat for a girl aged 8; both must be in first-class condition. Approval.

A reader of the *Fortnightly* wonders what is Gibbons' catalogue value for a girl aged eight. He is unable to find a price in either Part I or Part II; nor does the long coat suitable for city wear appear to have a quotation!

NEW ISSUES

The Editor will be grateful to his readers if they will help him with the earliest possible information concerning new issues. News from the Colonies in particular will be much appreciated. When possible, a specimen should accompany the information, and should be addressed to

EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Denmark.—Mr. H. Cowley informs me that he has received the 5 öre in the portrait type, so that the jumble of designs proceeds apace in a most remarkable manner, and no one comes forward to explain the mystery of it all. Let us set out the list, with the values in their proper order, and note, by adding its particular type after each, how the types are getting mixed up.



- Wmk. Crown. Perf.*
 1 öre, yellow, numeral.
 2 " carmine "
 4 " blue "
 5 " green, portrait.
 10 " scarlet "
 15 " mauve, numeral.
 20 " blue, portrait.
 25 " sepia "
 50 " violet "
 100 " yellow-brown, portrait.

Grenada.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News chronicles the following on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 1/2d., lilac and green.
 1d. " carmine.
 2d. " brown.
 2 1/2d. " blue.

Natal.—The 6d. value has been received on multiple CA paper.



Wmk. Multiple C.A. Perf.

- 1/2d., green.
 1d., carmine.
 4d., carmine and cinnamon.
 6d., green and brown.
 1s., blue and rose.
 2s. 6d., purple.

New Zealand.—The current 6d. stamp hitherto chronicled in shades of rose now comes over in a pronounced pink colour.



*Change of colour.
 Wmk. NZ and Star. Perf.
 6d., pink.*

Roumania.—Several changes of colour in the current series have to be recorded. On page 314 we noted change of the 1 bani from brown to black. Since then the 5 b. has been changed from blue to green, the 10 b. from emerald to carmine, and the 1 leu from rose and pale brown to black and blue-green. The 1 b. is the type of the 1 1/2 illustrated.



*Colours changed.
 No wmk. Perf.*

- 1 b., black.
 5 b., yellow-green.
 10 b., carmine.
 1 leu, black and blue-green.

St. Lucia.—Mr. E. B. Power, the New York representative of Stanley Gibbons, tells us in his New York letter on another page that the Postmaster of St. Lucia informs him that on New Year's Day that little island will issue four stamps portraying the Arms of the colony. The values will, he believes, be 1/2d., 1d., 2 1/2d., and 3d.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Our American Letter

198 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

Orders from the Strand

THERE is, I believe, a story to the effect that once upon a time a certain man in New Jersey wanted a youth as a kind of handy man around his estate. The applicant was asked, "Can you clean windows?" "Can you clean harness?" "Can you attend to the furnace?" "Can you do the gardening?" etc. His answers being in the affirmative, and, he having been engaged, the youth asked his master, "Is there any clay in the cellar, sir? because I might put in my spare time making bricks!"

I merely tell you this as an apology for appearing in these columns. It seems that somebody has whispered to the Czar of the Strand that his American representative hasn't got anything to do, and therefore the said Czar writes to his representative that he must write chattily and decorously for the readers of the *Weekly*. I believe the general idea is that you will be afflicted with a page once a month—oh! well, it is no worse than the rent that comes monthly, too; and, for that matter, communications from our friend "Bill" generally show up with annoying regularity every thirty days.

The Scott Catalogue

The 1906 Scott Catalogue is out in 1905—that's something in itself. I am in receipt of a copy with the words "For Review" plainly marked on it, so I suppose I really ought to say something about it. I have read through most of the publication, but find little to criticize, in fact, the prices are so very much in line with our own that there are but few deadly parallels to draw. I should, however, say that the Bahamas 4d., CA, 14, unused, is reasonable at \$15.00. I'm a buyer of any unused Cyprus 3d., CC, tall surcharge, at \$12.50 that are floating about. And New Zealand 3d., imperf., Star, unused, in the rare colour at \$17.50 would be a regular Boston cream puff. I'd take a dozen of them to start with. That the publishers are fully alive to the excellence of footnotes is evidenced by the fact of the insertion of so many of them throughout the work.

Catalogue Pricing

Boston parties not long ago, in an advertisement published in *Mekeel's Weekly*, were asking their readers—Why buy a catalogue which leaves a blank space against the price, thus leaving you in the dark as to whether it is worth five cents or five hundred dollars? I should think that the collector who did not know more about it than that would be better employed in some other pursuit than that of collecting postage stamps. However, I find the "Standard" Catalogue lists eighty-six English Officials and prices fourteen of them unused, whereas we list eighty-seven and price fifty-three! "Nuf sed!"

Surcharges of Salvador

I have just purchased for our firm a considerable quantity of the "1889" surcharges of Salvador. These stamps were sent from Salvador to this city about the time of their issue and are undoubtedly genuine originals. I find that our Catalogue does not quite embrace all the varieties incidental to the use of a handstamp. Among minor varieties not listed I have found:—

Cat. No. 35 with double surcharge.

| | | | | | |
|---|----|---|----------|---|-------------------|
| " | 38 | " | " | " | |
| " | 38 | " | " | " | violet and black. |
| " | 39 | " | " | " | |
| " | 46 | " | vertical | " | |
| " | 46 | " | double | " | |

Cat. No. 51 with vertical surcharge.

| | | | | |
|---|----|---|----------|---|
| " | 51 | " | inverted | " |
| " | 54 | " | double | " |
| " | 55 | " | " | " |
| " | 55 | " | inverted | " |

Panama v. Salvador

The past two weeks have been chiefly remarkable for the fact that there have been no new varieties discovered in the Republic of Panama, but our friends in Salvador have apparently been at it again. I feel sorely tempted to quote Shakespeare and say "Out, damned Spot."

Bargain Hunters

Several very innocent amateurs have favoured us this week with their presence, having found "on checking up" (sounds good, doesn't it?) that they omitted to secure a block of four (real wicked ones say eight) of the Cyprus 2 pia., Cape 2d. and 2½d., and Malta 1s. I'm always so sorry for these people, not because of their wants, but because of the trouble they put themselves to in order to find out that "we're on."

New Hebrides

A few American collectors have asked why we do not list the two new He-brides. Who ever heard of a he-bride? I thought all brides were *she*. The reason is that they are Locals, pure and simple, and all such emissions are not in either part of the Catalogue.

Recent Sales of Rarities

I have to report sales of such trifles as Canada 12d., unused; Ceylon 9d., imperf., unused; Newfoundland 2d. and 6d., scarlet, and 1s., orange, all unused; and fine unused Sydney Views—and money is 25 per cent. in Wall Street. Fine stamps are always in demand, but I find that such things as rare Confederate, Provisionals, and U.S. Carriers take a back seat in popularity. It's fine old Colonials, unused, and I was going to say with gum, but really that doesn't matter much. I wrote an article on gum in *Gibbons Weekly*, a week or two ago, and when it came out I saw my friend Nankivell had headed it "A Fragment found near Colney Hatch." Why was my esteemed friend in that neighbourhood? [Calling on afflicted friends—Power-ful and otherwise.—ED.]

Twentieth-century Stamps

A really good collection of twentieth-century stamps is a fine thing to own. I have lately been called upon to mount in our "Oriol" Albums two advanced collections of these stamps. They occupy about one hundred and twenty pages, if one follows the Gibbons Catalogue, and they certainly make a fine showing. One client always buys pairs of everything, but mounts only one copy. He then carefully salts the other copy away until things get lively. He has just sold his Lagos shilling values for nearly \$35.00 which cost him \$5.85, and he is still wondering if he shall accept an offer of \$35.00 for his Southern Nigeria £1, which cost him \$6.25. There is certainly a minimum of risk in buying current British Colonials, but I think New Yorkers have become somewhat tired of trying to locate some of the stamps. Most dealers go in for the pence, but seem to shy at the pounds; evidently they follow the old rule of taking care of the pence—and there is no doubt most of the pounds are fully capable of taking care of themselves. But it does cost a lot of money to carry nearly everything. To fill up only a few countries the other day, I sent away nearly \$1250.00, and I find we ought to repeat the dose next week again.

New St. Lucia Stamps

The Postmaster of St. Lucia kindly informs me that on New Year's Day that little island will issue four stamps portraying the Arms of the colony. The values will be ½d., 1d., 2½d., and 3d., I believe. I wonder if we shall have large designs *à la Antigua* or small stamps like Jamaica. I imagine the ½d. and 1d. of this colony on multiple ordinary paper should be good property, as the chalk surface in these values has already appeared.

Cultured Philatelic Boston

Boston is famous for its learning—in fact, we always have to be very careful in the punctuation of our letters to clients in that most cultured city—but the latest from Bean Town is not to ask for a well-centred stamp, but for a specimen whose design is not impinged upon by the dentilations. Oh, mamma!!!

EUSTACE B. POWER.

Our Italian Letter

ROME, 27 November, 1905

The Forthcoming New Issue

In my last letter I spoke of the decision taken by our Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs to entrust the making of the new postage stamps to private firms, as the public was no longer satisfied with the stamps at present made by our State Treasury printing office. The matter has now been decided officially. A Royal Decree, dated 8 October, and published on 17 November, authorizes the making of 200 million stamps of 15 centesimi, which are to be made "in an absolutely exceptional way, and as a trial," by the chalcographic method, i.e. printing on brass, from a design by the painter Paolo Michetti, who has modified it in some ways. Several designs had been presented by this artist, and some of them have been engraved as a trial, with results not at all satisfactory. Of the design which has just been adopted I have seen some proofs on tissue paper—Chinese paper—from the original die. Here is the official description of the new stamp just to introduce it: "The type consists of a rectangle 19 by 25 millimètres, with the bust of King Victor Emmanuel III in the undress uniform of a general, and with his face looking to the right, on a ground representing the sea, and showing stormy waters behind the face, while those in front of the forehead are calm and lighted up by the sun. On the upper right-hand side there is the disk of the sun with the royal crown in its centre. A label on top bears the inscription 'Poste Italiane' in two lines, on the left is 'Cent.', and on the right is '15'. This inscription is in white letters." The colour chosen is slate-blue. The stamps will be printed on white paper *without* watermark. The firm which is preparing these stamps has been established recently in Rome under the name of "Officina Calcografica Italiana."

A North American Engraver

I am of opinion that the new stamp will be well received; I do not say by the general Press, to whose

opinion I am absolutely indifferent, but by collectors and artists whose opinions cannot be influenced by politics. The portrait is engraved ingeniously and not at all a bad resemblance; the symbolic significance of the "King arising from the sea" seems to me happily pictured. One remembers that when King Humbert was assassinated at Monza, on 29 July, 1900, the princes of the blood were taking a trip on their yacht. It will be remarked, perhaps, that, in its general look, the new stamp has a strong American look. Its shape and the big letters of the inscription are indeed after the form of those found on the present stamps of the United States, Bolivia, Venezuela, etc. As a matter of fact, it was indeed an artist belonging to North America who came here to engrave the new type.

Probable Date of Issue

The date of issue for the new stamp has not yet been fixed, but it will not be before February or March that it will be able to appear. Meanwhile, there has been a new printing of 50 millions of Provisional stamps 15 centesimi on 20. Considering that according to the law stamps would have still to be obtained from the Government printing works, which is provided neither with the material nor with the machines for chalcographic printing, it may be asked, How will these things be provided? Such a step would be all very well, but it would entail an outlay by no means small; or, Will a return be made to the surface-printing, even for the 15 centesimi? In any case it seems that for the moment there is no question of using new types for the other values. But, if the new 15 centesimi stamps meet with a favourable reception, I fancy that there will be a movement in favour of having the whole series made by the same process.

New Portraits for Post Cards

Meanwhile, we shall see soon two new types of the King's portrait, one on the post cards for postal parcels, and the other on the post cards of 15 centesimi with reply paid for home use. These reply-cards will be new in that the two parts will be printed respectively in one colour different from the other, and that the value, instead of being mentioned as being $7\frac{1}{2} + 7\frac{1}{2}$ centesimi, as is now the case, will be 5 centesimi on the front card and 10 centesimi on the other.

The Milan Philatelic Exhibition

I hoped to be able to give some details about the Philatelic Exhibition in Milan, but the committee has found some difficulty in getting a suitable place, and nothing has been decided so far. I should not be at all surprised if the Exhibition were to be postponed until September, which would be a more suitable time, especially in view of the fact that the London Exhibition will be held next spring. Truly, two International Philatelic Exhibitions in the same month would have been too much, and we ought not to abuse things that are agreeable.

EMILIO DIENA.

BRITISH AFRICA POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

Owing to the fact that the war in South Africa has caused great attention to be drawn to the stamps of the British Possessions on that continent, and to the enormous increase in the number of collectors that has ensued from the issue of the War Provisionals in Mafeking, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, etc., we think this a good time at which to place before the public a new and very complete Album, designed for the British Possessions, etc., on the African Continent. The Album is designed upon the well-known plan of the Imperial Albums—the stamps in numbered spaces of the correct sizes on the right-hand page, and the description, full particulars, and illustrations on the opposite page. In order to make this a *permanent* Album we have provided from one to four blank pages *after each country*, thus making the Album available for the issues of many years to come. 220 pages. Size, $8\frac{3}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Post-free in Great Britain, 10s. 7d.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

Leeds Philatelic Society

President : E. Egly, Arncliffe Road, West Park, Leeds.

Secretary : Charles W. Harding, 139 Belle Vue Road, Leeds.

Meetings : Leeds Institute, Cookridge Street, Leeds.

Annual Subscription : 5s.; Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d.

Cingalese Stamps

A "DISPLAY of Used Ceylon Stamps" by Mr. Ernest Heginbottom, B.A., was the attraction at the meeting of this Society held at the Leeds Institute on Tuesday, 5 December, 1905, and much interest was evinced in the proceedings, as Mr. Heginbottom's ideal is the collection of *bona fide* postally used labels only, and the consequent rejection of "unused," for the reason that such do not afford to the student of Philately the same wide field of study and investigation.

In the absence of Mr. Heginbottom, who was unable to be present, Mr. Herbert Wade read the notes accompanying the stamps. The "pence issues" of Ceylon were used from 1855 (the date of the first issue) down to the year 1872, when a change in currency necessitated new issues with values in cents, the rupee being the standard; the opportunity was also taken to introduce with this change an entirely new design of stamp. Although exceedingly neat and well executed by De La Rue and Co., the cents issues, later so prolific in surcharged provisionals, do not appeal to collectors with the same force as the fine old rectangular stamps that preceded. The first issue of 1855 was on blue paper, two values only, viz. the 1d. and 6d., imperforate, watermarked Star, and engraved and printed by Perkins Bacon and Co. in London, and portrayed the head of Queen Victoria almost identical with that seen on the stamps of St. Helena, by the same engravers. Other values from 3d. to 2s., on white paper, appeared in the years 1857-8-9, and in 1861 these stamps were issued perforated for the first time. The unwatermarked issue of 1862 was engraved and printed by De La Rue and Co., who also printed the issues of 1863-7 watermarked Crown CC. The last of the "pence issues" was made in 1867-8; this was an entirely new design and consisted of two values only, 1d. and 3d., the latter with two varieties of perforation; the watermark was Crown CC as before.

There are many rarities contained in the "pence Ceylon," amongst which may be mentioned the 4d., 8d., 9d., 1s. 9d., and 2s. values of 1857-9, and the same values of the perforated stamps of 1861. Some exceptionally fine examples of these were to be seen in Mr. Heginbottom's collection, when it is considered that, as a rule, Ceylon postmarks are "strikingly visible"; in fact, it can be said that Mr. Heginbottom possesses one of the finest and most interesting lots of Ceylons to be found in the country.

The President (Mr. E. Egly), Mr. Herbert Wade, and Mr. J. H. Thackrah supplemented the display by showing their stamps of this country, those of Mr. Wade being greatly admired for their variety of shades and fine condition.

The King's Head issue of 1903, ranging in values from 2 c. to 2 r. 25 c., is most effective in design, being in some instances printed in two colours. Official stamps, surcharged "On Service" in two lines, first made their appearance in 1895, and the King's Head issue has been similarly overprinted for the values 2, 3, 5, 15, 25, and 30 cents.

A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Heginbottom for his kindness in again giving the members an opportunity of inspecting another section of his large collection of Colonials brought the meeting to a close.

One new member was proposed for election at the next meeting, and amongst the novelties shown most noticeable was a pair of 1d., red, English, printed from Plate 2, on Dickinson thread paper, in 1841, without watermark, this paper being used as a safeguard against forgery, and eight sheets only of this stamp were printed. This was shown by Mr. W. V. Morton along with 1d., black, Die II, Plate 66, which was struck on Large Crown paper with inverted watermark, by special command of the Royal Family, in 1864, and is said to be very rare; and, further, a pair of 1d., rose-red, English, Die II, Large Crown, imperf., known as the Cardiff penny, as two sheets were accidentally sent in this condition to that office in 1873.

Mr. Egly showed stamps of the German Levant Offices, 5 and 10 piaster, surcharged on the 1902 issue for the German Empire; and Mr. Fox had proofs of the first issue for India $\frac{1}{2}$, 2, and 4 annas.

Leicester Philatelic Society

President : Dr. R. Milbourne West.

Meetings : Winn's Cafe, Market Place.

Hon. Sec. : J. H. W. Goddard, Church Avenue, Glenfield Road.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday, 6 December, at which there was a large attendance. The President took the chair. A paper was read by Mr. T. B. Widdowson on "Albums," and a large display of all makes, from small collecting books to the best blanks, was on view, copies being kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. W. T. Wilson (Birmingham), Whitfield King (Ipswich), and others. He also showed an album folio made by himself, reducing to a minimum the friction between the several leaves which is a great objection in many movable-leaf albums. The chief feature of the evening was a display of Bermuda, St. Kitts, Bahamas, Nevis, Montserrat, and Tobago, by Mr. E. Heginbottom, B.A., of Rochdale, which consisted of forty-two cards containing the stamps of these countries, in the finest condition. The notes read, of his own writing, were particularly instructive and interesting, and greatly enjoyed by the members present. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3 January, 1906.

Liverpool Philatelic Society

President : Herbert Woods.

Secretary : W. Halfpenny, 28 Dacey Street, Liverpool.

Meetings : Angel Hotel, Dale Street, Liverpool. 7 p.m.

THE usual fortnightly meeting took place on Monday, 4 December, 1905, at the Angel Hotel, Dale Street.

Owing to the illness of Mr. Crowther, the paper on "Saxony" was unavoidably postponed, and in its place an auction of members' stamps was held. Mr. Jaggard (of Jaggard and Co., Moorfields) kindly undertook the office of auctioneer. A large number of good stamps were put up and disposed of, and some very good prices were realized.

A display of Seychelles and British Guiana was also held, and some really fine exhibits were made. In the former, Mr. Gill's exhibit called for mention, and among the juniors that of Mr. Robson; whilst in British Guiana Mr. Rockliff's exhibit stood far above the others, being a really excellent collection.

STAMPS AND STAMP COLLECTING. By Major E. B. EVANS.

The young collector is frequently perplexed by the meaning of the various terms used in stamp collecting, and the fullest explanations of these will be found in this book. 2s. 9d. in Paper Cover, or 4s. 6d. strongly bound in Cloth.

Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391 Strand, London, W.C.

G. S. W.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1906

OUR arrangements for the new year include the continuation of the leading features of *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*. "The Countries of the World" will be written up and fully illustrated in continuation of the work begun with our first number; the Rev. T. C. Walton, Headmaster of Kirkham Grammar School, an experienced and enthusiastic philatelist of twenty years' standing, will continue his instructive articles, full of kindly advice, and many wrinkles, for the Beginner; Stamp Portraits, with biographies, will be inserted as we can spare the space; Ingle-nook Yarns, i.e. short stories with a strong philatelic flavour, will be a special feature; and we have arranged with our friend Mr. A. B. Cooper, Editor of the *Sunday Strand*, and author of many popular stories, for some short serials to take the place of "The Stamp King" till the end of the year, when we hope to have a real

surprise packet for those who like stories with a philatelic interest.

Meanwhile, we are to have the History of the Firm of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., first-hand from the chatty pen of Mr. C. J. Phillips, as Managing Director, under the very appropriate title of "Fifty Years of Philately." This story, brimful of general philatelic interest, will run for several weeks and will be fully illustrated with portraits of the chief actors in the—tragedy.

Of course New Issues will not be forgotten, nor our friend Mr. Cornelius Wrinkle, with his "Gossip of the Hour"; and the specialist who hides his identity under the *nom de plume* of "One Who Knows" will contribute his occasional wide-awake tips of what to buy and what to avoid.

In fact, we shall do our best as heretofore to get a quart into a pint pot.

OUR PHILATELIC DIARY

JANUARY, 1906

We shall be glad if Secretaries of Philatelic Societies will send us their Programmes for the new year. Several Societies are omitted from this Diary for lack of Programmes.

- 1 & 2. Auction: Martin Day & Co., Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, London.
- 2 & 3. Auction: Glendining & Co., 7 Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
- 4 & 5. Auction: Plumridge & Co., 64 Chancery Lane, London. 4.45 p.m.
4. North of England Philatelic Society: James Coltman on King's Heads.
Birmingham Philatelic Society: Lantern Display; J. A. Margoschis.
5. Philatelic Society of London: R. Frenzel, Display of portion of his collection of Mexico, with Notes.
6. Junior Philatelic Society: Two diplomas will be awarded, one for the best exhibit of *philatelic literature or library accessories*, and one for the best short paper (not to exceed ten minutes in reading), to be read by a member to the meeting. Notice of such papers must be given to the Hon. Secretary by 1 January. A further diploma will be awarded to the publisher exhibiting the best handbook, special or general, calculated to be of advantage to junior philatelists. The special programme will include: Auction of Philatelic Literature. Paper—"Early Stamp Catalogues"; R. Halliday.
- 9 & 10. Auction: Puttick & Simpson, 47 Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
11. Bristol Philatelic Society: General Meeting.
- 11 & 12. Auction: Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London 5 p.m.
- 16 & 17. Auction: Glendining & Co., 7 Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.
17. Enterprise Philatelic Society (London): Display with Notes—Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica; E. Heginbottom, B.A. Paper—"Recollections," accompanied by Display; H. W. Westcott. General Sale and Exchange.
19. Philatelic Society of London: H. R. Oldfield, a Paper on the Stamps of Servia, with Display.
20. Junior Philatelic Society: Bourse. Paper—"Gibraltar and the Morocco Agencies"; H. W. Westcott. Display—Gibraltar, G. F. H. Gibson, Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Philatelic Society. Display—African Colonies IV, St. Helena and Sierra Leone. Debate—Used *v.* Unused. Openers, C. J. Patman (used); James Feeney (unused).
- 23 & 24. Auction: Puttick & Simpson, 47 Leicester Square, London. 4.30 p.m.
- 25 & 26. Auction: Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Loudoun Hotel, Surrey Street, Strand, London. 5 p.m.
- 30 & 31. Great Sale by Auction of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., immense stock of post cards and envelopes, by Glendining & Co., at 7 Argyll Street, London. 4.30 p.m.

Editorial Address—EDWARD J. NANKIVELL, Carnanton, Camden Park, Tunbridge Wells.

END OF VOL. II.

Vol. II

One
Penny.

Gibbons Stamp Weekly.

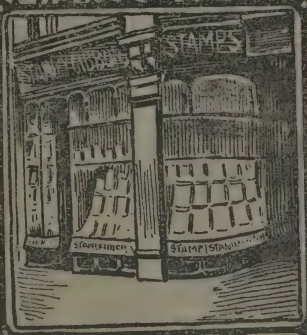
Edited by Edward J. Nankivell.

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NEW ISSUES AND VARIETIES. Five pages.

STAMPS OF THE PHILIPPINES, by L. Hanciau.

NOTES AND NEWS, by Charles J. Phillips.

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 pies, slate | . | . | . | . | 0 | 2 |
| ½ a., green | . | . | . | . | 0 | 1 |
| 1 a., carmine | . | . | . | . | 0 | 2 |
| 2 a., purple | . | . | . | . | 0 | 4 |
| 4 a., sage-green | . | . | . | . | 1 | 0 |
| 8 a., mauve | . | . | . | . | 2 | 0 |
| 1 r., carmine and green | . | . | . | . | 4 | 0 |

COLOMBIA.

1904-5. *Type 79. Perf. 12.*

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 c., mauve | . | . | . | . | 1 | 0 |
| 10 c. " pair, imperf. vertically | . | . | . | . | 4 | 0 |

HORTA.

1905. *Type 2. New colours.*

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 r., black and ultramarine | . | . | . | . | 0 | 5 |
| 75 r., carmine and brown on straw | . | . | . | . | 0 | 8 |

ICELAND.

1902-4. *Type 11. Perf. 12½, 13.*

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|------|---|---|---|
| 25 aur, green and brown | . | . | used | . | 0 | 5 |
| 40 " mauve | . | . | " | . | 0 | 4 |
| 50 " slate and grey | . | . | " | . | 0 | 9 |
| 1 krona, brown and blue | . | . | " | . | 1 | 3 |
| 2 " blue and olive-brown | . | . | " | . | 3 | 0 |

KISHENGARH.

1899. *Type 1. Imperf.*

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 anna, green | . | . | . | . | 1 | 0 |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

MAURITIUS.

1905. *Type 36. Single wmk.*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15 c., purple and ultramarine on bluish | . | . | . | . | 0 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

NEW SOUTH WALES.

1905. *Types 40 and 42. Wmk. Crown and A.*

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6d., orange | . | . | . | . | 0 | 8 |
| 1s., purple-brown | . | . | . | . | 1 | 4 |

SALVADOR.

1903. *Type 82.*

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|------|---|---|---|
| 12 c., slate | . | . | used | . | 0 | 8 |
| 13 c., red-brown | . | . | " | . | 0 | 8 |

VICTORIA.

1905. *Wmk. Crown over A. Perf. 12, 12½.*

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ½d., green | . | . | . | . | 0 | 1 |
| 1d., rose-red | . | . | . | . | 0 | 2 |
| 2d., mauve | . | . | . | . | 0 | 3 |
| 6d., green | . | . | . | . | 0 | 8 |

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|-------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 | 50 varieties of used | Foreign | s. d. | 0 7 |
| 3 | 12 " " | Colonial | 0 7 | |
| 12 | 12 " unused | World | 0 7 | |
| 64 | 100 " used or unused | " | 0 7 | |
| 111 | 20 " " " | Asia | 0 7 | |
| 121 | 20 " " " | Africa | 0 7 | |
| 151 | 25 " " " | Australasia | 0 7 | |
| 141 | 20 " " " | West Indies | 0 7 | |
| 201 | 50 " " " | Europe | 0 10 | |
| 4 | 50 " " " | World | 0 10 | |
| 5 | 25 " " " | Colonial | 1 1 | |
| 15 | 20 " unused | World | 1 1 | |
| 30 | 20 " used or unused | " | 1 1 | |
| 31 | 20 " " " | " | 1 1 | |
| 32 | 20 " " " | " | 1 1 | |
| 33 | 20 " " " | " | 1 1 | |

The last four Packets are all different from one another.

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COMPETITION No. 5.

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A competitor may send in as many sets of answers as he likes, but *each* set *must* be accompanied by a coupon, No. 5, as below, fastened to the replies.

The prizes will be adjudicated by Messrs. E. J. NANKIVELL and C. J. PHILLIPS, from whose decision there will be no appeal.

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PRIZES

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2nd A Packet of 1500 Stamps, all different.

3rd British Empire Postage Stamp
Album.

We would advise competitors not to give up if they are unable to complete the whole list: as this competition is by no means easy, it is quite probable that no correct list will be received. In that case prizes will be awarded to the nearest lists.

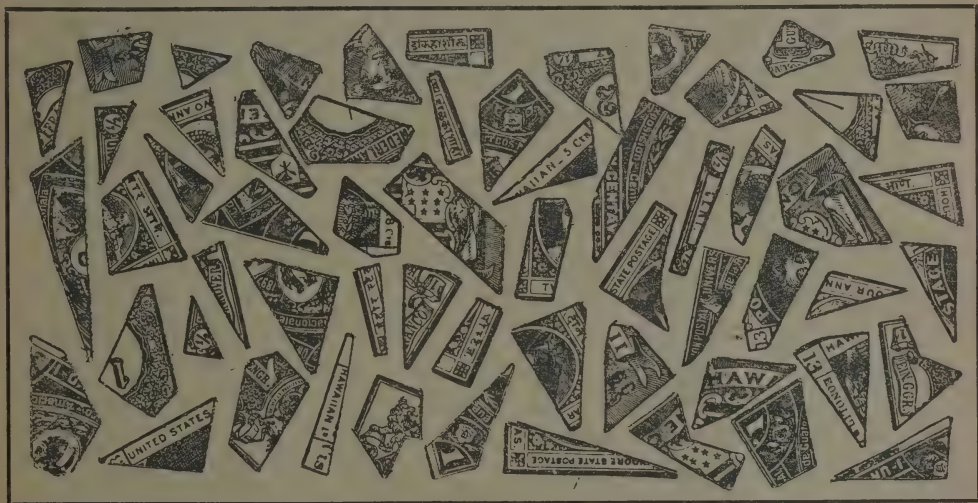
Again, if several competitors send in correct lists the prizes will be awarded to those results showing the greatest skill and care.

CLASS II.

1st Fifty Shillings' worth of Stamps to be selected by the Winner from our current Catalogue.

2nd A Packet of 1000 Stamps, all different.

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Competitors should note that no perforations are included in the above illustration.

COUPON No. 5. 30 DECEMBER, 1905

*Name and full
address.*

(Please write distinctly,
and say if *Mrs.*,
Miss, or *Mr.*)

Age

STANLEY GIBBONS'

LISTS OF

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

PACKETS OF STAMPS.

| No. of Packet. | | | | | Price post-free in Great Britain.. |
|---|------------------------------|--|----|----|------------------------------------|
| 202 | 40 varieties, used or unused | Europe | s. | d. | 1 1 |
| 6 | 100 " " | World | | | 1 7 |
| 152 | 30 " " or unused | Australasia | | | 1 7 |
| 7 | 100 " " " | World | | | 2 1 |
| 14 | 25 " " " | French Colonial | | | 2 1 |
| 17 | 20 " " " | Russian Locals | | | 2 1 |
| 65 | 250 " " " | World | | | 2 1 |
| 112 | 25 " " " | Asia | | | 2 1 |
| 142 | 20 " " " | West Indies | | | 2 1 |
| 203 | 50 " " " | Europe | | | 2 1 |
| 18 | 40 " " unused | World | | | 2 7 |
| 122 | 25 " " used or unused | Africa | | | 2 7 |
| 204 | 30 " " " | Europe | | | 2 7 |
| 113 | 40 " " " | Asia | | | 3 7 |
| 205 | 50 " " " | Europe | | | 3 7 |
| 66 | 500 " " " | World | | | 4 1 |
| 117 | 30 " " " | Asia | | | 4 1 |
| 153 | 30 " " " | Australasia | | | 4 7 |
| 8 | 100 " " " | obsolete | | | 5 1 |
| 9 | 200 " " " | Foreign | | | 5 1 |
| 20 | 60 " " unused | World | | | 5 1 |
| 21 | 40 " " " | Russian Locals | | | 5 1 |
| 114 | 40 " " used or unused | Asia | | | 6 7 |
| 70 | 500 " " " | Europe | | | 7 7 |
| 71 | 125 " " " | Asia | | | 7 7 |
| 72 | 125 " " " | Africa | | | 7 7 |
| 73 | 105 " " " | Australasia | | | 7 7 |
| 74 | 125 " " " | West Indies | | | 7 7 |
| 75 | 125 " " " | South America | | | 7 7 |
| 76 | 100 " " " | North America | | | 7 7 |
| 77 | 100 " " " | Central America | | | 7 7 |
| <i>The last eight packets are all different, and if ordered at one time cost only</i> | | | | | 55 0 |
| 206 | 60 varieties, used or unused | Europe | | | 7 7 |
| 10 | 100 " " " | World | | | 10 1 |
| 78 | 100 " " unused | with the late Queen's portrait on each | | | 10 1 |
| 116 | 45 " " used or unused | Asia | | | 12 1 |
| 80 | 100 " " unused | picturesque | | | 12 7 |
| 67 | 1000 " " used or unused | World | | | 15 0 |
| 115 | 50 " " " | Asia | | | 16 7 |
| 11 | 200 " " " | World | | | 21 0 |
| 118 | 40 " " " | Asia | | | 21 1 |
| 79 | 100 " " unused | with the late Queen's portrait on each | | | 30 0 |
| 68 | 1500 " " used or unused | World | | | 35 0 |
| 69 | 2000 " " " | " | | | 60 0 |
| 69A | 3000 " " " | " | | | 170 0 |
| 69B | 4000 " " " | " | | | 280 0 |

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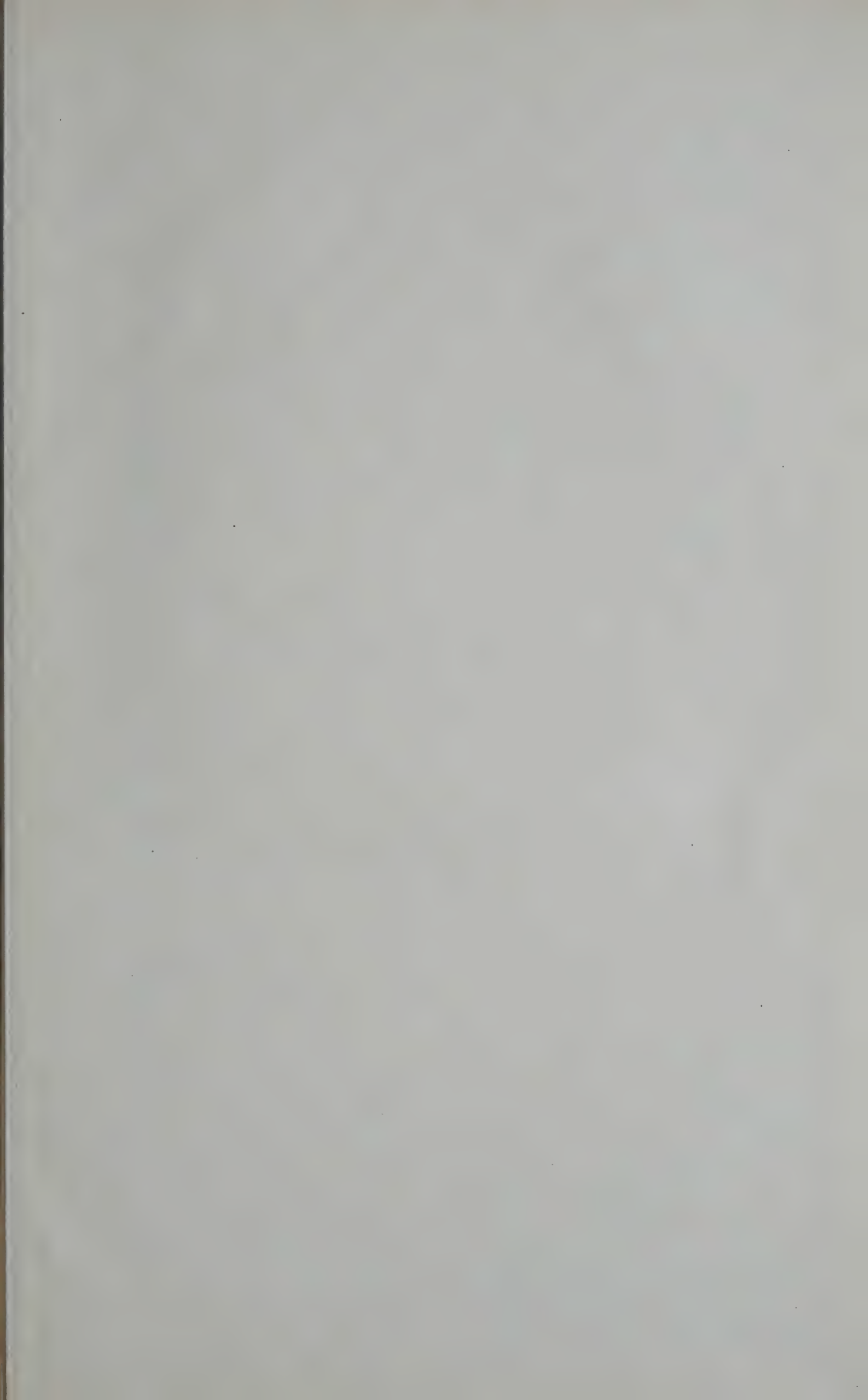
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